Correspondence 1857-1875:
Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle

by

Sarah Orne Jewett and others

Edited by Terry Heller

Coe College

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Sarah Orne Jewett Press

1296 30th ST

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html
Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Theodore Herman Jewett (1815-1878), Jewett's father.
Caroline Frances Perry (1820-1891), Jewett's mother.
Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister.
Caroline (Carrie) Augusta Jewett (1855-1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell: (1826-1904), Jewett's aunt.

Katherine de Costa Birckhead: (1843? - 1925?), close friend and spiritual mentor to Jewett, mainly in the late 1870s.

Kate Burt: Cecily Burt Sibley (1844-1932). Burt married James H. Sibley on 22 December 1869.

Mellen Chamberlain: (1821-1900), a Boston municipal judge and an amateur historian.

Anna Lauren Dawes: (1851-1938) author and activist, daughter of Massachusetts politician, Henry L. Dawes.

Helen Williams Gilman: (1817-1904), Jewett's great aunt.

Georgina Halliburton: (1849-1910), a lifelong friend.

Maggie Baker / Margaretta Baker Hunt: (1845-1930), a Cincinnati friend. Married in April 1872.

Ella Maria Walworth Little: (b. 1849) One of Jewett's closest friends in her early years. Married in 1875.

Ellen Frances Mason: (1846-1930), a lifelong friend.

James Ripley Osgood: (1836-1892), publisher at what eventually became Houghton, Mifflin, Jewett's main publisher.

Theophilus Parsons: (1797-1882), Harvard law professor and judge, who became one of Jewett's early mentors.

Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry: (1826-1896), Jewett's maternal aunt.

Cora Lee Clark Rice: (1849-1925), lifelong friend. Married in December 1872

Horace Elisha Scudder (1838-1902), Editor of publications eventually associated with Houghton, Mifflin, publishers. Early literary advisor.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden: (1842-1918), a lifelong friend. Married in 1885.

Before 1869

Theodore Herman Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Niagara NY.

Dec 3d [*1857*]*

7 o clock P.M.

My Dear Child

I arrived here this evening. I met in the cars a Mr Gibson and wife from Nashville Tenn on their way to Boston and found them very pleasant people and although I left you~~r~~ rather sorrowfully, I can assure you, yet I had a pleasant ride to this place — I shall spend tomorrow forenoon in looking about Niagara Falls and Mr Gibson and lady ^&^ myself will then leave at noon 2' P.M*

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for Boston, I shall arrive there about 12 A.M on Saturday I understand, so as to take ~~me~~ the cars for home at 3. o clock PM

— I hope that you will be contented and enjoy yourself and above all not get sick ——

So take good care of yourself my dear, especially evenings ——

— Give my thanks to Uncle John and Aunt Sarah* for all their kindness for they did all in their power for us and I appreciate their attentions —— And now with kind love to them and my best wishes my dear child for your welfare and happiness I remain your affectionate father

Theo H Jewett

Notes

1857: Written on lined paper, this letter is dated December 3. Dr. Jewett indicates that he will view the falls the next morning and then depart around midday for Boston, arriving at around Midnight on Saturday. Buffalo to Boston by train in 1874 was roughly 15 hours. Departing on Friday afternoon, he should arrive in Boston by Midnight on Saturday. December 3, therefore, probably is Thursday. During Jewett's childhood and youth, December 3 fell on Thursday in 1857, when she was 8, and 1868, when she was 19. In the absence of other information, I will guess that the letter's tone suggests an 8-year-old reader, and place it in 1857.

Mr Gibson and wife from Nashville Tenn: These people have not been identified.

noon 2' P.M: It is not clear what Dr. Jewett meant by this.

Uncle John and Aunt Sarah: See Sarah Chandler Perry in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is at the University of New England, Maine Women Writers Collection, Jewett Collection correspondence, Box 1 Folder 48.

Adeline Dutton Train Whitney to Sarah Orne Jewett

Milton, Oct. 18th. 1866

My dear young friend,

Are you tired of waiting for an answer to your bright, kind little letter? But I have no doubt you have been bright and kind enough to guess how very busy I might be, and not to believe me unmindful or unappreciative. I always receive thankfully words like yours which are spoken or written so genuinely, and which give me the truest encouragement in what I try to do. I cannot always answer at once, but I have been able, thus far, to send some answer, I think,

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to all. And yours was one I would by no means have neglected.

I am glad you like Leslie,* and that you find the good I meant should show through this nonsense and mischief. Please remember, however, as I trust I have beguiled nobody into forgetting, — that there <u>may</u> be a nonsense and mischief quite separate from the good.

And for your castles in Spain that you tell me of, — they are the nicest things possible in their way, I know myself; but we must try and <u>build</u> as well as sit sometimes and dream.

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I have only a few moments just now, which I have taken to say these few words in, — poor payment, I am afraid, for yours, which gave me a real pleasure, and which I shall lay by for safe keeping, in my desk, and in my heart. But believe me very truly and cordially your friend

Adeline D. T. Whitney

Notes

Leslie: Whitney's *A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life* (1866).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Editors of Atlantic Monthly to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions handwritten*]

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

No. 124 Tremont Street,

Boston, June 18, 1868

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Madam:

We are sorry to decline your story of "Under Water Legacy" in which there is much that is so good. But the story is not quite well enough told, and the dramatics are not good enough for the amusing plot. We shall be glad to look at what you send us hereafter. Perhaps you will try something in which the chief persons are young ladies? we think your failure in this [*deletion*] case comes in good part from your attempt to portray young men's characters. — we [venture *?*] to make these criticisms, because we think

[*Page 2*]

there is something in the [conception *?*] of the story, which deserves better [of us than *?*] the usual [circular *?*] of thanks and regrets.

Very respectfully

The Editors.

Miss Eliot.

Notes

"Under Water Legacy": Jewett is not yet known to have published a story for which this title would seem appropriate, nor is it yet known whether the manuscript of this story exists.

The small handwriting of this letter suggests that its author was Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 1, Item 11 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Editors of Atlantic Monthly to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions handwritten*]

OFFICE OF THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

No. 124 Tremont Street,

Boston, August 1, 1868

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Madam:

We hope you understand us aright, when we say that you are one of ~~my~~ our most difficult~~y~~ cases. If your story* were only a little better, or a good deal worse! The intention is excellent, but you have not quite told your young-girl's story in a way to interest older folk, and we confess that we would have had you choose a more [*unrecognized word*] plot. As it is we can only regret to send back your manuscript.

Very respectfully

The Editors.

Miss Eliot

P.S. In writing for your ms. please mention the number 7224.

Notes

story: Jewett's first story to appear in *Atlantic* was "Mr. Bruce" in December 1869. It is not yet known what manuscript she submitted in the summer of 1868. See the letter to her from *Atlantic Monthly* of 18 June 1868.

Her "Jenny Garrow's Lovers" appeared in *The Flag of Our Union* in January of 1868.

The small handwriting of this letter suggests that its author was Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 1, Item 11 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden

[*13 August 1868*]*South Berwick

8th August 1868.

My Dear Grace

As you see by the date, my intentions have been good towards you; I commenced the very night I came home to answer* your letter but I really had forgotten that my commencement was so very slight! Now to the best of my knowledge it is the thirteenth day of the month and it continues to be — S. Berwick and I can still say 'My Dear Grace' and so I commence again. The first thing I must write you about is my journey 'down East'. I enjoyed my self beyond every thing. The very first day was even happier

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than I expected. When I got to Aunt Helen Gilman's,* who should be there but Nelly!* Mary *and Father had known it all the time and Zilpha Cutter* was there too. So when it was time to go to the steamer I was very much overcome. We left Portland at five o'clock and it was quite chilly after seven also very rough but as long as there was any thing to see in the way of island and cliffs, there was moonlight enough to see it. About seven, having attended a picnic the day before and indulged in divers and sundry very good things in Portland I was slightly sea-sick and about eight[,] ignominiously retired to my state room. The next morning when I woke up, I

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was just going to tell a fib — I mean when I dressed myself and went out in search of my parent, (You must n't think I had been sea-sick all night) I found my self in the thickest fog I ever saw — and I don't think I ever realized so fully the meaning of the word bleak, as I did when I saw the sea. The schooners round us looked like ghosts and once is a while we would ^go^ quite close to some great rocks coming right out of the sea or there would be great cliffs on the other side. When we got inside Grand Manan [*may have written* Menan] and up to Quoddy head,* you could hear the fog bells ringing on the shore, but nothing to be seen but this gray fog all round you. I have forgotten what time that day we got into Eastport. All

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you could see there was the front row of people on the wharf — We took the river steamer there and went up the St Croix at dead low water and the most fearful thunder and lightning in St. Andrew bay that I ever knew in my life. St Andrew bay is twenty miles wide but two inches each side was the extent of the view that day. Vattie* met us at the wharf and of course our visit in Calais was all that heart could desire excepting that as usual I wanted to stay and broke my heart because I couldn't. St. Stephen N. B.* is just across the river and most of Vattie's friends live there. The minute you get across the bridge you can see the change, instead of turning to the right when you meet a carriage you must turn to the left, and

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~~all~~ the stores have names such as "The Golden Fleece"* which is one of the dry goods stores. The church is ~~built~~ like the pictures of English churches and the rector is very 'high'* and there are services ~~morning~~ ^afternoon^ and evening every day. Both towns are very high up from the river and there are some of the most beautiful views I ever saw. We went to a party in Calais and were invited, the night we were to leave, to an English house in St. Stephen. Wasnt it a pity we couldn't go? One day we went yachting down the St. Croix, and had a beautiful time. We left Calais Tuesday, and I never enjoyed any thing more in all my life than I did the sail down the St. Croix river to Eastport and through Passamaquoddy bay. We didn't see any thing as we went up so it was all the better, and such a glorious day as it was! Until we got to St. Andrew there were high hills on both sides and the river less than a mile wide and as far as you could see was steep blue hills and the shore all rocks

[*Page 6*]

After we left St. Andrew it was more beautiful still for the water was twenty miles across and there were fishing boats and yachts all round and quantities of islands great and small. When I get my fortune I shall have a house at St. Andrew, and a yacht and some Indian canoes and an Indian to paddle. There are just such houses as I should like, on the shore all along — It is never very warm there — just right all summer. Only when you get further south toward Eastport it is very boggy. One thing or rather one person made it very pleasant Mr

Ferguson. Lucy Gates lover* was at Calais while we were and [and *repeated*] ~~though~~ he went down to St. John with us. His mother and sisters live there. And he is in business in New York and Chicago. The morning after we got to St. John, he came to the hotel and we went all about. It seemed as if I must be in Europe. The people look and talk so differently and the streets have such different names. King and Queen and Prince

[*Page 7*]

William, and Regent, and Charlotte, and Duke. We went up to the Catholic Cathedral* which is very large with a great many chapels opening from it and huge stained windows that must have cost small fortunes, and there were people saying their prayers all round and a statue of the Virgin with flowers and lots of trinkets before it. And there was the Convent and the "Sisters School" and the Bishop's palace,* all very near. That afternoon at four o'clock Mr Ferguson came for us and we went up to Queen Square in front of his house to hear the band, which is said to be one of the finest in the British army. It belongs to the Regiment of Riflemen* which is stationed there. The riflemen [are *?*] round the streets all the time and the officers ride by with the most brilliant uniforms, and you cannot look out without seeing priests with long gowns. Well, the music was perfect and it was very nice to watch the people. Of course the very nicest people were there in their

[*Page 8*]

very nicest clothes and all round the square were people in carriages and dog carts with the coach man and foot man in the grandest style you ever saw! After we heard, "God Save the Queen"* we went to the Ferguson's to tea. The house is one built nobody knows how many years ago by an old Englishman and is full of the queerest places, just like a house in a novel. The Fergusons are Scotch and perfectly charming. All of them have been in Europe or <u>home</u> as they all call it. The rest of the time we were there we were going about and seeing every thing and enjoying ourselves generally. The only unpleasant thing about it was the fleas! They bit my foot and poisoned it so I have been lame ever since I got back and Mary is bitten too. We couldn't imagine what they were but at last we saw one and it jumped about a mile which enlightened us considerably!! Did you ever see one jump? I never had before and I haven't recovered from it yet. The morning we were coming away — Father came up and said the steamer

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got in very late and instead of leaving at eight o'clock would wait until ten or eleven. And we could sleep as long as we liked, but about seven he came rushing up to tell us to hurry with all our mights for the boat would leave at the usual time! We had our things to put in the trunk and ourselves to dress and our breakfast to eat and to get to the wharf all of which we accomplished. You would have laughed to see the people hurry down there — the waiters heard the boat was delayed and didn't find out to the contrary till the last moment so no one was waked up in time! It was very pleasant coming down the bay of Fundy. You never saw any thing like the tide there. It rises and falls sixty or seventy feet and the wharves look so high at low tide. Mr Snell* the artist was on board going down and coming back and he and Father got very well acquainted. So he sketched for me and told me a great many things. If I go to Boston he is going to take me to all the studios. ~~I was not~~ He introduced us to a Miss Murray of St. John,* who was very nice indeed. And it was a beautiful day and we could see the coast

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very plainly. Every day was beautiful whether it rained or not. We got to Portland at four in the morning and home in the early train. It seemed as if I hadn't been gone at all. I had all the better time because I haven't been every where under the sun and traveled every summer —

What a nice time you must be having at Bethlehem.* It looks as if <u>it might</u> be delightful. Grandma showed me the picture yesterday. I put my head in the window this morning and she was writing Mrs Gordon* with all violence so I availed myself of some gingerbread and departed. Your letter from Newport was very interesting and I was so glad to get it. So write me again soon. I want to see you dreadfully. I hope you will come by and bye wont you? Anna Fox* is going to the mountains next week and I hope she will stop here. We shall see her as she goes through anyway. I have been reading a very nice book since I came back "History of the Huguenots"* —— I think it is quite time for me to finish this letter so good bye dear Grace — Much love to all from

Your loving Sarah

Notes

13 August 1868: In the letter, Jewett says that she is completing the letter on 13 August.

answer: This word in the MS may be crossed through or underlined. It seems to make more sense if it is underlined.

Aunt Helen Gilman's: Key to Correspondents.

Nelly: Knowing which Nelly to which Jewett refers is difficult. It seems likely that she refers to her cousin, Helen, daughter of Aunt Helen Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Zilpha Cutter: Because this seems not to be a common name, it is probable that Jewett refers to Mrs. Zilpha A. Whitney Cutter (1819-1909) of Westbrook, ME. which is a western suburb of Portland, ME.

Quoddy Head: Quoddy Head light house is east of Grand Manan Island.

Vattie: Jewett records writing a letter to Vattie Gates in her diary of 15 January 1869. This seems likely to have been Vashiti / Vashti Gates (1848-1925), daughter of Ephraim Church Gates and Vashiti / Vashti Randall Pickins of Calais, ME. She married Bradley Llewellyn Eaton (1850-1937) in 1872. The "Find a Grave" pages for this couple offer a good deal of information about their families.

St. Stephen N. B.: In New Brunswick, Canada, Saint Stephen is across the St. Croix River from Calais, ME.

"*The Golden Fleece"*: This dry goods store in Saint Stephen was owned and operated by Hugh Cullinen and his brother, Patrick, from 1850 until Hugh's death in 1895.

The church: Presumably, Jewett refers to St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Calais (1853).

Mr Ferguson. Lucy Gates lover:

Lucy Gates (1845-1921) was Vattie Gates's sister. By about 1873, she was married Henry H. Barnard (1946-1908). As a result, her Mr. Ferguson has not been identified.

A candidate is John Ferguson (b. 1849), eldest son a New Brunswick politician who would become Member of Parliament, John Ferguson (1813-1888); however, he would be the same age as Jewett, 19, seeming somewhat young to be courting Lucy, who was 23.

St. John ... the Catholic Cathedral: The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John, New Brunswick, was completed in 1853.

"Sisters School" and the Bishop's palace: Presumably, Jewett refers the Sisters of Charity of St. John, who administered both schools and an orphanage in St. John after 1854. They served many Irish immigrant children who lost their parents in several local epidemics. The Bishop's Palace (1861), next to the Cathedral, served not only as the Bishop's residence, but also as a school and service center. See also Canada's Historic Places.

Queen Square...the band ... British army ...Regiment of Riflemen: Queen Square is a public park space in Saint John, New Brunswick, now the site of a regular farmer's market. Canadian Band history sources indicate that prior to 1885, there was no formal military band in Saint John. Jewett's description suggests that the British Band and Bugles of The Rifles may have been visiting and performing in Saint John during August of 1868, but this has not been confirmed.

After we heard, "God Save the Queen": This British royal anthem typically was performed to close a concert or show in 19th-century Canada as well as in Great Britain and other Commonwealth nations.

Mr Snell the artist ... Miss Murray of St. John: These persons have not been identified.

Bethlehem: Pennsylvania.

Grandma ... writing Mrs Gordon: Jewett's last living grandmother in 1868 was the fourth wife of her grandfather, Captain Theodore F. Jewett (1787-1860), Eliza Sleeper Jewett (1793-1870). Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden's mother, Katherine was Katherine Gordon. Key to Correspondents.

Anna Fox: The identity of Anna Fox is not yet known. A contemporary person of this name in New England was Mary Anna Fox, who is mentioned briefly as the adopted daughter of Mrs. Eliza Baylies Wheaton's sister, Mrs. Judson, in *The Life of Eliza Baylies Wheaton* (1907). Mrs. Wheaton was a founder of Wheaton Female Seminary in Norton, MA, now Wheaton College.

"History of the Huguenots": Jewett could have been reading one of several available books on the Huguenots. Of particular interest to her at the time of her trip to Canada may have been M.

Charles Weiss, *History of the French Protestant Refugees, from the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes to our Days* (1854), translated by Henry William Herbert.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: bMS Am 1743.1 (118).

1869

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

[*19 August 1869*]

Dear Sir

Thank you for taking "Mr Bruce" and thank you very much for your note. I'm so glad you like him — Will you be so very kind as to add the signature S. Jewett to the story, which I omitted to do —

Very respectfully

'Alice Eliot.'*

South Berwick

August 19th 1869

Notes

Mr Bruce: Jewett's first story in *Atlantic Monthly* appeared in December 1869.

The story appeared with no by-line, but the contents list identified the author as "A. C. Eliot."

Eliot: Jewett used "Alice Eliot" and "A. C. Eliot" as a pen name in several of her earliest publications from 1868 through 1870.

The manuscript of this letter is held in Rogers Memorial Collection: Papers of James R. Osgood and A. V. S. Anthony, Owning Repository: THE, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Call Number: MS Thr 470, Box 3: 41.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Elisha Scudder

15 November 1869

Dear Sir

I beg your pardon for troubling you again but this is quite important to me. Is it too late to change the signature to my story The Shipwrecked Buttons?* For that is signed "S. Jewett," and I thought a while ago that I would adopt that instead of

[*Page 2*]

the one I have used [hitherto *corrected*] — 'Alice Eliot —' I see that a story of mine in the December Atlantic* is credited to the latter ^(Alice Eliot)^,* and it would be a very great satisfaction to me if the story you have, could be the same. I hope it's not too late, and if you can have it changed I shall be more [obliged *corrected*] than ever to you — Thank

[*Page 3*]

you for your note which I received last week.

Most respectfully,

'Alice Eliot'

Notes

Buttons: "The Shipwrecked Buttons" had "Alice Eliot" in the byline. *Riverside Magazine for Young People* (January 1870).

Atlantic: The byline for "Mr. Bruce" was A. C. Eliot. *Atlantic Monthly* (December 1869).

Eliot: Jewett appears to have written "(A. Eliot)" and then squeezed in "lice."

Richard Cary noted:

> Between January 1868 and May 1871 she signed her first eight publications respectively A. C. Eliot, Alice Eliot, A. C. Eliot, Alice eliot, Alice Eliot, Sarah Jewett, Sarah O. Sweet, and S. O. J. (See Clara Carter Weber & Carl J. Weber, *A Bibliography of the Published Writings of Sarah Orne Jewett* [Waterville, Maine,1949], 29-30.) Miss Jewett's own explanation for these mutations is to be found in "Looking Back on Girlhood," *Youth's Companion*, LXV (January 7, 1892), 6: "I was very shy about speaking of my work at home, and even sent it to the magazine under an assumed name." Scudder could see no wisdom in this nimble name-changing and in a letter dated May 21, 1870, advised her to "drop all use of . . . pseudonym." (Houghton Library, Harvard.)

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine. A previous transcription appeared in Richard Cary, *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Elisha Scudder

South Berwick

30 November 1869

Dear Sir

Thank you for your kind note and especially for your criticisms on my two stories.* They will help me, I know. You were right about Mr Bruce and if I were talking instead of writing I [could *or* would] tell you of ever so many things that might have been very different. I couldn't expect it to be perfect: In the [first *corrected*] place I couldn't write a perfect Story, and, secondly, I didn't try very hard on that. I wrote it in two evenings after ten, when I was supposed to be in

[*Page 2*]

bed and sound asleep, and I copied* it in part of another day — That's all the work I 'laid out' on it — It was last August and I was nineteen then, but now I'm twenty — So you see you are 'an old hand,' and I 'a novice' after all. Do you remember in Mr Bruce I made 'Elly' say that, like Miss Alcott's 'Jo',* she had the habit of 'falling into a vortex?" That's myself, but I mean to be more sensible — I mean to write this winter and I think you will know of it. I like the Riverside M so much, and what

[*Page 3*]

you have written, and you are delightful to have dear old Hans Andersen.* I dont see the Riverside regularly though. I'm not a bit grown up if I am twenty and I like my children's books just as well as ever I did, and I read them just the same. I'd like to see the "Buttons" in print; you said the 18th, I think. It's a dreadful thing to have been born very lazy, isn't it, Mr. Scudder? For I might write ever so much; it's very easy for me, and when I have been so successful in what I have written. I ought to study, which I never did

[*Page 4*]

in my life hardly, except reading, and I ought to try harder and perhaps by and by I shall know something & can write really well — * There was no need for me to write this note & I'm a silly girl?* I know it, but your letter was very nice and you are kind to be interested in my stories — So I beg your pardon and will never do so any more — You said you had seen my name before. It was some [verses *corrected*] — The Old Doll* — two ~~or three~~ years ago, I think. I must hunt them up. ^I believe they were very silly^

Yours very respectfully and gratefully,

"Alice Eliot"

Notes

stories: Richard Cary, who produced a transcription of this letter for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*, identifies the two stories: "Mr. Bruce" and "The Shipwrecked Buttons." Mr. Bruce" by A. C. Eliot appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in December 1869 and was collected in *Old Friends and New*, 1879. "The Shipwrecked Buttons," by Alice Eliot, was in *Riverside Magazine* in January 1870 and collected in *Play Days*, 1878.

copied: Jewett may have intended to capitalize this word. Her correction is not clear.

Jo: Jo March is the main character in American author Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (1868). Jewett begins her quotation with a single quotation mark and ends with a double quotation mark. Jo is said to fall into a vortex when writing her novel in Chapter 27, "Literary Lessons."

silly girl: Jewett seems quite clearly to have placed a question mark here. See also the next note.

really well: Cary's transcription of this particular manuscript went beyond his usual corrections. In addition to dividing the letter into paragraphs and regularizing punctuation, he made one or two possibly significant changes. Though it is possible to dispute this, I believe Jewett wrote: "... perhaps by and by I shall know something & can write really well." Cary's transcription reads: " ... perhaps by and by I shall know something I can write really well."

On this topic, Cary includes a long note:

> Miss Jewett's schooling consisted of sporadic attendance for several years at Miss Olive Raynes's school in South Berwick and four years at Berwick Academy, from which she was graduated in 1865. Her real education came through association with her father, Dr. Theodore Herman Jewett. In her early teens Miss Jewett began to suffer from acute attacks of rheumatism. Believing that her health would improve out-of-doors, Dr. Jewett took her with him on his professional rounds. ("I used to follow him about silently, like an undemanding little dog.") At each backland farm and coastline fishing shack she absorbed invaluable impressions of people and households; between stops she

observed the particularities of nature; and as they rode along he transmitted to her an abiding knowledge and love of good books. Miss Jewett dedicated *Country By-Ways* "To T. H. J., my dear father; my dear friend; the best and wisest man I ever knew; who taught me many lessons and showed me many things as we went together along the Country By-Ways." A man of simple tastes who "was impatient only with affectation and insincerity," he recognized long before she did the direction her life was taking, and advised her, "Don't try to write about people and things, tell them just as they are!" The first two poems in *Verses* are poignant memorials "To My Father," and in 1901 Miss Jewett presented a stained-glass window in his memory to Bowdoin College, of which he was an alumnus and former faculty member.

Hans Andersen: Wikipedia says: "Hans Christian Andersen ... (1805 - 1875) was a Danish author. Although a prolific writer of plays, travelogues, novels, and poems, Andersen is best remembered for his fairy tales."

Old Doll: Cary infers that *Riverside Magazine* had rejected "The Old Doll," which later appeared in the *Independent* 25 (July 24, 1873), 93.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

New transcription and notes.

1870

Fields, Osgood & Co. to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Letterhead*]

JAMES T. FIELDS.

JAMES R. OSGOOD.

JOHN S. CLARK.*

FIELDS, OSGOOD & CO.

(SUCCESSORS TO TICKNOR & FIELDS,)
PUBLISHERS

No. 124 Tremont Street, Boston

[New York Office, No. 723, Broadway]

Boston, 8th Jany 18~~69~~.

[*1870*]*

[*End letterhead*]

Miss Alice Eliot

South Berwick [Me *?*]

Enclosed please find our cheque for $5.— in payment for your poem 'The Doll that Lied'* accepted for publication in 'Our Young Folks{.}'

Yours respectfully

Fields, Osgood & Co.

Notes

Clark: These three names appear to the left of the Company name, with a large end brace to the right.

1870: The underlined portion of the date line was written in by hand. The 6 and the 9 are separately crossed out.

This deletion creates a puzzle about how Jewett's poem was handled and about dating this letter.

The poem mentioned in this letter, "The Doll that Lied," was not published in *Our Young Folks*. It seems likely that something happened to cancel this publication, for a poem entitled "The Little Doll that Lied," appeared first in *St. Nicholas* in August 1874 with "Sarah O. Jewett" as the byline. A letter of 18 February 1874 to Jewett from Mary Mapes Dodge, accepted and included payment for the *St. Nicholas* publication. It seems likely, though not certain, that Jewett revised and re-titled the poem for this publication.

I have decided to date this letter in 1870 for two main reasons. First, the poem was submitted under a pen name Jewett seems to have abandoned by early 1870. The last piece Jewett published under the name "Alice Eliot" was a short story, "The Shipwrecked Buttons," in *Riverside Magazine* in January of 1870. Second, continuing to use 1869 stationery into January of 1870 seems a likely choice.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Fields, Osgood & Co. 1 letter; 1870. (65).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Horace Elisha Scudder to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

Editorial Office of "The Riverside Magazine for Young People."

Riverside, Cambridge, Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

24 March 1870

Dear Madam,

What shall be done with a contributor who will not take an editor at his word? Why could you not send me a defective little poem to confirm me in my judgment instead of a fancy so natural and winning as that of "In a Hurry"? I see I must yield as peacefully as I can and say that your verse this time is quite as good as your prose, and I "accept" it with pleasure. I won't even criticize it as I at first intended!

[*Page 2*]

I shouldn't wonder if I understood a tenth of the other poem.

Do you see the Riverside? If not I will gladly put your name on the list, as the Publishers are in the habit of sending the magazine to those who write for it. In that case to what address shall I send it?

Truly yours

Horace Scudder

Mifs Alice Eliot.

Notes

Hurry: Jewett's poem, "In a Hurry" appeared in *Riverside Magazine* in June 1870.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 195. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*27 March 1870*]

My dear Sarah

I can only stop to write a few lines to tell you how much I have thought of you on this day which marks the beginning of your Christian

[*Page 2*]

life — of your [outward *?*] Christian life, I mean — for, I know dear, how already, before this, you have thought of these things & have tried to lead this new life — But today you have, before the world — given yourself to God, have accepted Jesus as your Savior & "con-

[*Page 3*]

fessed him before men" — May God grant that from this day you may go on growing stronger in your belief, & faith, & trust in Him — stronger to bear & arise up from the many falls & missteps which must & will come — And don't be discouraged

[*Page 4*]

dear Sarah — but first look up to Jesus, & feel & know that if you~~r~~ will only be led by him, even though it may be [*unrecognized word*] rough [*unrecognized word*], he will bring you out safe at last — first trust in his loving care for you ——

"God guide you & God guard you on your way"* ——

Lovingly

Grace —

[*Unrecognized word*]

[March 27 *?*], 1870

[*Upside down in the top margin*

and then down the left margin of page 1]

Here are some roses that I am very fond of. I do not know why I have not shown these to you before — but they were particularly appropriate just now —-

Notes

your way: Walden's use of quotation marks for this popular blessing suggests she is quoting a particular person, but the identify of such a person is not yet known.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Grace 1 letter; 1870. (84).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah

Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Katherine de Costa Birckhead to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Top center — printed image of an animal*

perhaps a dog or a bear]

[*17 April 1870, Easter*]

My dear little girl — I have just been asking our Heavenly Father, to bless & watch over you, & I feel that [these *?*] my [dear *?*] pleadings will be listened to, & that He [will *?*]. He sees I know all you are pulling through, & if you only continue to ask for His help He will give it. What you need will come to you — The "peace

[*Page 2*]

that passeth all understanding,"* & that nothing earthly <u>can</u> bring — I am so glad we had that little talk this afternoon, it has brought you very near me, & on this the gladdest day of all the year too! I was feeling rather sad though, for it seemed so hard not to be able to join in the sweet service of prayer & praise, [& yr. *?*] love & confidence came to me as a

[*Page 3*]

[a *repeated*] ray of sunlight & did me good, thus showing that our "thoughts are not as His thoughts," & that I was denied one thing only that I might have another [wh. *?*] perhaps I needed most! I wish I might "keep" you my dear friend, but I am very [weak & sinful *?*] myself, & feel that the ["sweet seat *?"*] is the one for me, & that

[*Page 4*]

I too need to be taught. But [we *?*] will <u>keep each other</u> & that will be better — I know yr. heart is very free of love, & that you were in earnest. I saw it in yr. face & this is all our Heavenly Father [asks, to come to him dearest *?*] bringing all yr. joys & sorrows with you, & you will find rest & comfort.

Good night & God bless

you — always yr. very

true & loving friend

Kate de C Birckhead —

[*Diagonal across bottom left corner of p. 4*]

Easter Sunday

April 17 / 70

Boston

Notes

understanding: See the Bible, Philippians 4:7.

thoughts: See the Bible, Isaiah 55:8-9.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Birkhead, Kate de C. 1 letter; 1870. bMS Am 1743 (22).

An envelope associated with this MS is addressed to Mifs Sarah Jewett. 5 Walnut Street. Boston. It is unstamped, suggesting that it was hand-delivered.

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Horace Elisha Scudder to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

Editorial Office of "The Riverside Magazine for Young People."

Riverside, Cambridge, Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

21 May 1870

Dear Madam,

I enclose $5.00 — it was such a small calla bud! in payment for "In a Hurry"* in June Riverside.

You will see that I changed the line as you wished, but I think the old reading was better. I did not answer your note, but I presume you expected none.

I do not know whether you wish to drop all use of your pseudonym, and I send this as before to your old address. Instruct me if I am wrong.

Sincerely yours

Horace E. Scudder

Miss Alice Eliot*

Notes

Hurry: Jewett's poem, "In a Hurry" appeared in *Riverside Magazine* in June 1870. The opening line is "O. silly little Calla!"

Scudder does not formally divide this letter into paragraphs, but places long spaces between the sentence groups that I have separated as paragraphs.

Eliot: Above this name, someone has penciled a circled numeral 2.

Beginning with this poem, Jewett dropped the use of her pseudonym, Alice Eliot.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 195. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Horace Elisha Scudder to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

Editorial Office of "The Riverside Magazine for Young People."

Riverside, Cambridge, Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

24 July 1870

Dear Madam,

I have changed my mode of payment for articles in the Riverside and instead of [inclosing *so spelled*] an order on Hurd & Houghton I have written them to send you a cheque for $36.00 in payment of "The Girl with the Cannon Dresses."* The cheque will be drawn to Mifs Jewett's order and enclosed in a note to Mifs Eliot, which I believe is your wish.

I am sorry that I was away on my vacation when the proofs of

[*Page 2*]

of this number were read. I always read them myself and I was sorry on reading your story in the magazine after publication to find several slips which annoyed my eyes. It is almost too warm however to be worried about trifles and I advise you solace yourself with — I should have said ice cream, but sponge cake is the only production of Berwick with which I am acquainted.

There must be some [original *?*] sin of fault finding in me, or else why should I say that your story

[*Page 3*]

disappoints me now that I read it in print. These seem to be good characters for a story and good scenery but no incident, no story. In other words that here is a sketch and not a picture.

All no doubt quite well known to yourself! and very ungracious in me to speak of it when I have accepted, printed & paid for it! Nevertheless

I am very truly your friend

H. E. Scudder —

Notes

Dresses: Jewett's story appeared in *Riverside Magazine* in August 1870.

In the Houghton folder of Scudder's letters is an envelope belonging with this letter. It is addressed to "Mifs Alice Eliot" in South Berwick, ME, and cancelled in Cambridge, MA, on 26 July. Penciled up the left side, probably by Jewett: "A mild criticism from Mr. Scudder".

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 195. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Hind* & Houghton

[*22 August 1870*]

Hind & Houghton

Please find enclosed ~~the~~ Mr Sandder's draft, indorced by me —

very respectfully

Sarah O. Jewett.

5 Walnut A Boston

22 Aug 1870 —

Notes

Hind: While Jewett seems to have written "Hind," in fact payment for her story, "The Girl with the Cannon Dresses" came from Hurd and Houghton, the Boston publisher that operated Riverside Press. See Scudder to Jewett of 24 July 1870.

The transcription of "Sandder's" is uncertain and the person not identified.

5 Walnut Street in Boston was the home of Jewett's friend, Grace Gordon. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Horace Elisha Scudder to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

Riverside Press,
H. O. Houghton & C.,
Poprietors.

Hurd & Houghton,
Publishers,
Brooms St., New York.

The Riverside Press is a regular station of the Western Union Telegraph Company,

and it in direct communication with every telegraph office in the country

Editorial Office of "The Riverside Magazine for Young People."

Riverside, Cambridge, Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

26 November 1870

My dear Madam —

I think [{I} should *?*] find it rather difficult myself to explain in just what my introduction to Scribner's Monthly consisted. I had in mind however to write to D^r^ Holland,* calling his attention to some of my contributors, especially those who were not recognized as professional writers, and saying a good word for them in case he should wish to solicit contributions, and that he might recognize them

[*Page 2*]

as Riverside contributors and literary friends of mine should their contributions come under his notice in the usual way of mss offered. I was prepared to say what I thought of "Alice Eliot's"* work but I did not like to do this unless I could also explain that "Alice Eliot" was Mifs Jewett. However I do not know but I have made too much of this. Explanations are always longer than statements and generally to be explained themselves. Should you ever be inclined to try the magazine it might do no harm to refer to what you had done for us, although

[*Page 3*]

judging from my own experience an Editor is usually influenced more by what comes than by any show of introduction.

[*A short diagonal line up the right between paragraphs*]

Although I have climbed down from my editorial stool, my occupation & my connexions will continue to be literary and it would give me great pleasure if I thought that our slight connexion made you willing to call upon me for any possible service I might render you in the matter of literary labor. Pray let me know~~n~~ when you are in Boston again. It would give me great pleasure to call upon

[*Page 4*]

you.

Sincerely yours

Horace Scudder

Oddly enough we are doing a novel here for a Mrs. Jewett* & she called upon me with her daughter Mifs Sarah Jewett. I thought for a few moments you might be [mistifying *so spelled*] me!

Mifs Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Holland: Josiah Gilbert Holland (1819-1881) was an American author, who helped establish and then served as editor of *Scribner's Monthly Magazine*, beginning in 1870. Wikipedia.

In the Houghton folder of Scudder's letters is an envelope belonging with this letter. It is addressed to "Mifs Alice Eliot" in South Berwick, ME, and cancelled in Cambridge, MA, on 26 November.

Eliot: In the first three years of her career, Jewett published four items under the name of Alice or A. C. Eliot. Her story, "The Shipwrecked Buttons" (1870), appeared in *Riverside Magazine*, and "Mr. Bruce" (1868) appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*.

Mrs. Jewett: Susan W. Jewett, *From Fourteen to Fourscore* (Hurd and Houghton, 1871). Information about her appears fragmentary. A

query about her in *The Jewett Family in America Quarterly* (Summer 1955, p. 12), suggests that she was married to Charles A. Jewett of Cincinnati, OH, and that they were the parents of the actress Sara Jewett, sometimes confused with Sarah Orne Jewett. For Sara Jewett, see Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 195. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

1871

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edward Everett Hale

4 January 1871*

Dear Sir:

Have you received a story — {"}The Orchard's Grandmother"? I sent it to you some time ago, and have not heard from it — Some of my letters lately have not reached their destination, & I have a little fear that it may have been the same with this. If you have received it, and have not yet examined it, I beg yr. pardon for

[*Page 2*]

troubling you with this letter —

most respectfully

Sarah O. Jewett.

Address

Miss A. Eliot

South Berwick.

Maine —

Notes

1871: A note appears in the upper left margin of page 1: "? is this answered — E E H"

The Orchards Grandmother: Jewett's story appeared in *Merry's Museum* in May 1871. Her by-line read not "Miss Eliot," but S.O.J.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Smith College Special Collections, Northampton, MA, Hale family papers, Sophia Smith Collection, SSC-MS-00071; Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1871, undated — Correspondence, incoming, Box: 36, Folder: 18.

Edward Everett Hale to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston. Feb. 3. 1871

My dear Miss Eliot,*

I thought I had written to you at the beginning of last month but find I was mistaken. We have read your story with very thorough interest, but we are now so crowded with stories that we have engaged that we cannot use it. Indeed I think it is rather more fit for one of the more juvenile magazines, — and if you would like

[*Page 2*]

I will forward it to Merry's Museum with my recommendation.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Hale

[*a mark that suggests an intent to underline the signature*]

Notes

Miss Eliot: Hale replies to Jewett's letter of 4 January 1871, inquiring about her submission of "The Orchard's Grandmother" to *Old and New.* This story appeared in *Merry's Museum* in May 1871.

One of Jewett's pen names was Alice Eliot, the name with which she signed her inquiry. Beginning not long before this letter, she began publishing under her own name. When her story appeared in *Merry's Museum*, the byline was "S.O.J." Her 6 February reply to Hale was signed "Sarah O. Jewett."

Hale's handwriting in this letter differs significantly from that of his other letters to Jewett. It seems likely that this manuscript was written by a secretary.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909. 3 letters; 1871-1901. (86).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edward Everett Hale

[*6 February 1871*]

Dear Sir

Thanks for your very kind note which came this morning. I have thought the story (The Orchards Grandmother)* was not suitable for "Old & New" myself — I am glad you liked it, however, and appreciate

[*Page 2*]

your interest and offer of your recommendation — I think Merry's Museum will be a good place for it. Will you be kind enough to give my address as "Miss Eliot —" & believe me most truly & respectfully

Sarah O. Jewett.

South Berwick Me

6th February 1871

Notes

The Orchard's Grandmother: Jewett's story appeared in *Merry's Museum* in May 1871. Her by-line read not "Miss Eliot," but S.O.J.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Smith College Special Collections, Northampton, MA, Hale family papers, Sophia Smith Collection, SSC-MS-00071; Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1871, undated — Correspondence, incoming, Box: 36, Folder: 18.

Editors of Atlantic Monthly to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions handwritten*]

Office of the Atlantic Monthly

No. 124, Tremont Street,

Boston, February 6, 1871

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Madam —

"This [Editor *?*] who writes the small hand"* feels it due to himself to make some explanation of the apparently ungracious silence he has kept in respect to your note of last August. It comes to hand just after his return from a [vacation his work *so it appears*] had frightfully accumulated on his hands, and he excused himself from replying by a promise made himself to call upon Miss Jewett at 5 Walnut Street,* and then say how much he liked her [*unrecognized word*] of writing and what hopes he had of her literary success. Such a resolu-

[*Page 2*]

tion was altogether too good to be kept, and we need not say it was promptly and finally broken. Your letter [alas *?*] remained to be answered. Let us answer it now.

We think it eminently worth while for you to hope so, and we agree with you in your liking for the Tennants. We had not forgotten the other story resembling "The Hunter Baby"* in plot, but neither seemed to us quite successful, though both were brightly and naturally written.

In short, we hope to hear from you again — in prose, as you will imagine from the enclosure. If you are again in Boston, pray let us know.

Very respectfully

The Editors.

Miss Jewett

Notes

small hand: Thomas Bailey Aldrich's handwriting in his letters typically is quite small. He *may* be the author of this letter. Key to Correspondents.

5 Walnut Street: The Boston home of Jewett's friend, Grace Gordon. Key to Correspondents.

Tennants ... Hunter Baby: These transcriptions are uncertain, and these pieces have not yet been identified. Works with these titles did not appear in *Atlantic Monthly* in 1870.

Jewett's next appearance in *Atlantic Monthly* was "The Shore House" in September 1873.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 1, Item 11 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions added by hand*]

Boston, March 5, 1871.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Madam:

We have just been reading your story of the Shore House* with the pleasure which all your sketches give us, and yet we have felt that it is worthy of a better story than you have set in it. Can't you think ~~your~~ of something else to place in that charming house — something a little more picturesque and romantic? As it is, the descriptive character of the paper altogether overbalances the narrative, and the reader, who has somehow been led to expect incident, feels a disappointment in the end. You could make more of your present plot; introduce the Kews practically, and the Dockums, and expand

[*Page 2*]

the facts to dramatic proportions. Pray let us hear from you.

Yours respectfully

The Editors

Miss Jewett.

Notes

Story of the Shore House: Jewett's second piece to appear in *Atlantic Monthly* was "The Shore House" in September 1873. This story, with the Kews and Dockums as characters, later became part of *Deephaven* (1877).

Penciled after the signature: [William Dean Howells]. Another letter on this topic, of 11 March 1871, was signed by Howells, and the handwriting in both appears identical.

Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, on *Atlantic Monthly* stationery. The cancellation date is not readable.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions added by hand*]

Office of the Atlantic Monthly,

No. 124 TREMONT STREET.

Boston, March 11 1871.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Madam:

By all means make a sketch of your story,* if you don't feel secure of your powers of invention. But in doing this pray remember that you will have to develop characters very fully. — much more fully than you have done in the piece as it stands. Perhaps also it would be well to curtail some of the preliminary passages. Give ample accounts of the old house, the sea=faring* and light=house people, as you propose. I return you the manuscript by this post for your revision.

When you come next to Boston, pray let me know, and I will try to call upon you. Or if you have not time to send me your

[*Page 2*]

addrefs, and in your leisure feel compassion enough for a busy man to waive ceremony, will you come out to Cambridge to see me? I live in Berkeley street, one door from Phillips Place, (Garden St. cor) and my name is that of

Your obedient servant

W. D. Howells.

Miss Jewett.

Notes

sketch of your story: It appears Jewett has queried Howells about a new approach to the story that would be her second piece to appear in *Atlantic Monthly*, "The Shore House" in September 1873. This story later became part of *Deephaven* (1877).

sea=faring: Howells uses "=" where one expects a hyphen.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Susan George Perkins to Sarah Orne Jewett

Concord May 1, 1871

Dear Sarah,

I was very much obliged to you for the copy of those verses and shall not apologize for the date of this letter, as it ought to convince you how long the flame of gratitude keeps bright in my bosom.

I hope you are enjoying this perfectly lovely Mayday.

[*Page 2*]

Everybody seems inspired by it and unusual toleration has been shown to the small horn blowers who usually render this day dreadful to sober minded people. I believe this custom of hornblowing is peculiar to Concord. I never heard of it anywhere else, but every youth in this town from four to fourteen considers his life incomplete unless he possesses a long tin horn upon which, for at least eighteen hours, from the earliest streak of dawn until

[*Page 3*]

he sinks ~~into~~ exhausted ^into^ slumber [*deleted letter* s*?*] he makes it his duty and delight to blow fiendish and incessant blasts. It speaks well for the attachment to the youth of humanity and the customs of antiquity possessed by the inhabitants of this city that this is patiently endured every first day of May —

I am going to appear in theatricals to night. Sarah do you never do it. It looks alluring at first but will prove a tyrant. (The "it" is vague but it is because I felt what I cannot express). Once know a few parts in farce or comedy, be able to repeat them correctly and not have

[*Page 4*]

"stage fright" and you become the property of the rapacious, I mean the religious, community. They use you chiefly for [*unrecognized word or words*] materials, for chapels, parsonages, chimes &c — but you're available for anything and no longer belong to yourself. If, this lovely day, you are basking in the sunlight and breathing "odorous air," think of me cooped in the house with crimping pins, for "wavy tresses" are a necessity in my character tonight. Pity me, and "shun the boards."

Adieu (stagey you see) it is time to go to rehearsal.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

Much love to Mary.* How is the lovely and famous "Georgie"* {?} Hope you are by this time perfectly resigned about the seal skin cap and that your dog's health and spirits are all that you can desire.

Your grandmamma's profile is much admired. It is enough like yours for you to profit by the compliment. All wish to be remembered.

Affectionately yours

Susan Perkins

Notes

Mary: Almost certainly Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

"Georgie": This is likely to be Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_023_01.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions added by hand*]

Office of the Atlantic Monthly,

No. 124 TREMONT STREET.

Boston, May 15, 1871.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett —

I can't tell indeed when your sketch* will be published. There are a good many things that have precedence. Perhaps you had better write

Notes

sketch: Jewett's next piece to appear in *Atlantic* was "The Shore House," in September 1873.

Lacking a signature makes it uncertain that Howells penned this fragment, but the handwriting is at least similar to that of letters he signed.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Dean Howells

[*17 October 1871*]*

My dear Mr. Howells

I cannot wait any longer before writing you a note to thank you for "Their Wedding Journey",* I am enjoying it so much and this last number is so good! It seems unnecessary, though, for you to improve, for people were so satisfied before and there are so many dear stupid writers who will go on and on in the same fashion till they die. I have taken great pleasure in the November number for I had been quite low spirited! Berwick has grown quite uninteresting

to me for once in its life, and everybody is distressingly grown up and I have 'nobody to play with'.

I have been writing some children's stories for the Independent, and the state of my mind is shadowed forth in the last one, "Half done Polly,"* which is severely moral. I daresay you will not be able to account for my telling you this but I suppose it is another illustration of your "pleasures of autobiography so dear to all of us"* — I dont know if I have quoted it right but it made a great impression upon me.

I once went over part of the "Wedding Journey's" route myself and I have enjoyed that part particularly. I have grown very ambitious of late and wonder continually if by any possibility I shall write so charmingly by and by. I am diverting myself at present by reading Froude' s History* but I find myself planning my 'fall campaign in the midst of important acts of Parliament and it goes off slowly!

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick,

17th Oct. 1871

Notes

1871: Three different typescript transcriptions of this letter are available. This one is from the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743.1 Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, Box 4 (122). The Houghton also holds a second typescript, which differs from the first mainly in that the entire text is a single paragraph, but also contains the uncorrected typo that appears in version 3: "Journeyin' ".

Version 3 appears below.

"Their Wedding Journey": Howells's first novel, *Their Wedding Journey*, began to appear serialized in *Atlantic Monthly* 28, in July 1871.

"Half-done Polly": Jewett's story appeared in *The Independent* 23 (October 5, 1871), and was collected in *Play Days* (1878).

"pleasures of autobiography so dear to all of us": This phrase appears in Part 3 of *Their Wedding Journey*: *Atlantic Monthly* 28 (September 1871), p. 348.

Froude' s History: In a letter of May 12, 1872, Jewett reports reading *History of Elizabeth* in James Anthony Froude, *History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Death of Elizabeth* (London, 1856-1870, 12 vols.

Version 3

From The Maine Women Writers Collection, transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. The differences between this and version 1 mainly are in punctuation.

My dear Mr. Howells

I cannot wait any longer before writing you a note to thank you for "Their Wedding Journey."* I am enjoying it so much and this last number is so good! It seems unnecessary, though, for you to improve, for people were so satisfied before — and there are so many dear stupid writers who will go on and on in the same fashion till they die. I have taken great pleasure in the November number for I had been quite low-spirited! Berwick has grown quite uninteresting to me for once in its life, and everybody is distressingly grown-up and I have 'nobody to play with.' I have been writing some children's stories for the Independent, and the state of my mind is shadowed forth in the last one, "Half-done Polly,"* which is severely moral. I daresay you will not be able to account for my telling you this, but I suppose it is another illustration of your "pleasures of autobiography so dear to all of us"* — I don't know if I have quoted it right but it made a great impression upon me. I once went over part of the "Wedding Journey in'" route myself and I have enjoyed that part particularly. I have grown very ambitious of late and wonder continually if by any possibility I shall write so charmingly by and by. I am diverting myself at present by reading Froude' s History* but I find myself planning my 'fall campaign' in the midst of important acts of Parliament and it goes off slowly!

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick,

17th Oct. 1871

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett

Newport

October 27, 1871

I am in despair my dear Theodora* — ! it rains, rains rains, all the time! & today we have been counting upon, as the day on which were to have our last sail — for Johnny* leaves tomorrow for Boston, on his way to Lenox, on his way to New York, on his way to Europe — ! & it rains harder than it ever has — Well, it's fortunate that I'm of a contented disposition. I think I am, & disappointments

[*Page 2*]

do not make me utterly wretched, but really, is not it too bad — ? Did you think you were never to hear from me again? — I began to think you never would — I have enjoyed a great deal since I have been here, in spite of the horrid weather we have had all the time. Cousin Edward, fortunately knowing my indifference to rain, took me a lovely drive the other day in an open wagon, no umbrella, & a delicious Scotch-mist. Kate* had a cold & could not go so we took Carrie Hunter* as ballast, it was a double seated thing — now I suppose you will go & write her a note telling her that's why we asked her —

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Had a delightful drive round the new road to Bateman's* — When did I write you last, & what did I tell you? — I can't remember — Did I tell you that Cousin Edward had given me a most elegant dinner party? & also that we had been there to lunch — He certainly does know how to entertain. At both entertainments a profusion of exquisite flowers — a bouquet at every plate — (besides a magnificent one in the middle of the table at the dinner). I hope Mamma has kept my letters for I have written all about every thing & you will like to read them when you come — they will help me, you know, when I "begin at the beginning+ —— when are you coming? not till I get home I hope. I don't exactly know

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when that will be — but soon I think — My Aunt Lizetta is with us, you know, & ~~it~~ I never could lose the whole of her visit —— And now about your dress, which I dare say you have made by this time — mine has a deep ruffle round the bottom not very full — 12 in wide, & on that a narrow ruffle put on with a cord, not very full — not an eighth wide — then at the top of the wide ruffle is one gathered in the middle, about as wide as the bottom one — the over skirt has a fold of velvet, a fold of silk, & a roll of velvet mourning folds, you know — the waist small basque in front & partition, cut up the middle, this shape — [*a drawing*]* these blots down are supposed to be plaits —— all trimmed round with folds, folds also going round the neck & down the front, either side the buttons, as I usually have my dresses trimmed — & malta lace* also & on the sleeves which are [cut / coat *?*], rounded & open nearly to the elbow — lace & folds

[*Page 5*]

going up the opening & finishing in a black velvet bow — black bow behind also, "both before & behind" — how do you like it, you can have yours made so if you like & we'll be twins — or would you rather be twin with Bessie Winthrop*— ? She has a black silk street dress made perfectly plain skirt with three rows of black velvet — cross-way velvet — little over half a finger wide — not quite the same width apart, upper skirt one row of velvet & fringe — it is very pretty & very little work, but velvet costs & so does fringe. The Hunter girls have very pretty cashmere dresses — a narrow ruffle round the bottom, about an [eighth *corrected*] wide, & then eight folds about one inch & l/2 wide, just as every other one cut the other crosswise, do you understand? so they shade differently, you know{,}

[*Page 6*]

finished by a french roll — I forget whether the upper skirt has a ruffle or fold — then Bessie has a silk petticoat which I like very much, two rather wide ruffles, each with a heading & put on with a french fold — both ruffles the same width & about an eighth apart, I should say, perhaps not so far — & that's enough about dresses — horrid things! — This [eve'g *?*] we are to dine at the Masons,* Kate, Johnny & I, then Johnny & I are to go to the Newmans' to a little party given in my honor — Miss Lydine* love [*two unrecognized words*] the [*two unrecognized words*] beautifully. I have seen it, & it's a horrid looking thing, nothing but stamped [cambric *?*]. Kate is so much better Sarah, goes out sailing, rowing, & every where — even in the day time, is no longer an

[*Page 7*]

owl. She is now going through a dreadful ordeal at the dentist's { — } goes about every other day — poor child — has also been vaccinated, so is lame of an arm & all her teeth, & has a cold — She however is well & seemingly in good spirits — sends love & says she is going to write.

The Wedding* went off splendidly on the 19th. Willie looked handsome & Sarah did too, almost — they both were in the best of spirits, & jolly & natural as possible. I was asked to the ceremony also, it was in the house — wore my blue silk — ^& tea rose-bud^ — well, I won't tell you what Coz. Edward said — but you know he is a man of excellent taste! — He & Willie and Johnny all sail on the 15 of Nov. — How Kate will miss them all this winter But Sarah

[*Page 8*]

King away, Sarah Gibbs too & every one — ~~With~~ Dr. & Mrs. Birckhead sail tomorrow the 28th —— Capt. Matthews* I see frequently, teas with us about every other evening —

Monday. Oct. [*deletion*] 31 — I have left you for some time have I not, Theodora? — I am now writing at Kate's desk in the back parlor, a beauty, given her by Cousin Edward. It is one of those with "figure holes," shelves &c — & a "what-not" top, — quite an elegant affair. Imagine my astonishment the first time I saw it open, & behold your Father gazing upon me —! here he is now, stuck up right in the middle — "monarch of all he surveys"* for there is no other to dispute the ground with him — the inside of

[*Page 9*]

the desk that is, a little photograph of dear Mr. Birckhead presides over the out side — just over your Father's head — I must go back to where I left off — & I don't exactly know where that is — I have just now received a call from a very agreeable Mr. Reilly, Army officer.* Kate is out driving with one of her beaux, so you see she must be better — for it is broad day light & bright sunshine between twelve & one — This afternoon I was to take a walk with Miss [Lydine *?*] but she has "backed out" which is fortunate for I should have been obliged to as my new boots which I bought just before coming here [are *corrected*] so large that one of them has rubbed up & down so on my heel that it has worn a place as large as a cent nearly all off — & con-

[*Page 10*]

sequently it is quite painful for me to walk, so we are going sailing with the L.C.* instead, Kate, Ellen,* & I — wish you were here to go to{o}, don't you? This evening I go to a party at the Hunters. I must tell you about Sat. it was such a day! —— the day Johnny left — in the [morn'g *?*] about ten we went for our last sail in the "Bessie " — Ellen, Kate & I, Johnny & Willie — it was perfect — just rough enough {—} home soon after twelve — then about one Johnny came again to say a last farewell — then Mrs. Birckhead & I took a long walk till dinner time at three — then Capt. M. came for us to sail a quarter past four, Kate Hunter, Kate & I — splendid! It was so rough that we "shipped seas" continually — I got soaking wet — my shoulders were wet to the skin, notwithstanding a water-proof dress & wrap — my hair

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wringing wet. (Another interruption in the shapes of Mrs. Thorndike & Miss Wheaton)* I don't think I ever enjoyed a sail so much & in the same way, I mean, it was so exciting — home just in time to change our clothes & go to drive with Cousin Edward at 6 oclock, a moon-light drive — Kate & Ellen on the back seat, Cousin E. & I in the front — It was very cold & the moon was behind the clouds nearly all the time, only once did it peep out & look at us for one half minute, but it was just perfect, we were in just the right place to see it, by the beach, & the light in the water was so beautiful {—} we went round the new road to Bateman's & back then to the beach — home about half past eight {—} regaled ourselves on the drumsticks of a chicken & hot wine & water & went directly to bed — don't you think it was a day indeed!? —

Today Cousin Edward has gone to Boston with Willie to meet Johnny there, the two brothers go on to Lenox & Cousin E. comes back tomorrow — he leaves next week — all to meet in N. Y. from where they sail — expect to be home next May — Had a nice letter from Mary* the other day — It came to the Masons, & created quite a sensation

[*Page 12*]

for they all thought it was a gentleman's writing, & wondered what gentleman friend I had in Cincinnati. Bessie wished to see the signature which I showed her — "Ever yours M. R. J." which certainly did not make her any wiser — I however enlightened her, as she seemed quite worried — She & Mr. Winthrop go next Sat. to

the Winthrops in Brookline for a little visit — the [cousins *?*] go the middle of next week — dear me, if I had a house here I'd never go. Saw the moon rise just over the water last [even'g *?*] — it was perfect — I miss Sarah King & Sarah Gibbs very much — (another interruption, Mrs. Vernon & Mrs. Horner — Jack's mother* I presume.) You see I am the only one at home & Mrs. B, unfortunately for me, told the servant to let any one in as she wished me to see Buck Winthrop, if he came & give him a message from her, & inquire about Willie, as he saw him in New York — I have not seen him

[*Up the left margin of page 9*]

for years. I am not likely to now, as he does not

[*Up the right margin of page 9*]

seem to make his appearance.

[*Up the left margin of page 10*]

I hope Kate has not eloped!

[*Up the left margin of page 11*]

Write soon — I shall have a great deal

[*Up the right margin of page 11*]

of "filling in" to do when I see you.

Grace

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

Mr. Gibbs is in N. Y. with his wife & mother — he

[*Up the right margin of page 5*]

was here the other day but never came near us!

[*Extra large in pencil cross-written on p. 12.*]

Capt [Walter's / Matthews *?*] [*unrecognized mark*] is to come [& stay *?*] for another [Monday *?*] & to walk [*four or five unrecognized words*]

[*Extra large in pencil cross-written on p. 8* .]

Just home from sailing { — } lovely — L. C. [*unrecognized words*, *perhaps 7*]. I am writing by firelight ——-

Notes

Theodora: Jewett's given first name, which is rarely used.

Johnny: Gordon Walden mentions three people who seem to be family members, but whose identities remain unknown: Johnny, Cousin Edward, and Aunt Lizetta. Reviewing genealogical information on her parents shows few candidates. It is possible that Aunt Lizetta is Ariana Elizabeth Smith Austin (1829-1911), her mother's cousin. But as yet, no close relatives have been discovered who are likely to be Johnny or Cousin Edward.

Kate: Probably Katherine de Costa Birckhead, though she could be Gordon's older sister, also Kate. Key to Correspondents.

Carrie Hunter: Sorting out the Hunter family has proven very difficult. It would seem likely that "the Hunter girls" are relatives of Kate Birckhead's mother, Eliza Hunter. She was a daughter of American politician and diplomat, William Hunter (1774-1849) and Mary Robinson (1807-1863). Also connected with them may be Charles Hunter, who married Mary Stockton Rotch. They apparently had only one daughter, Mary Rotch Hunter (b. 1854).

Bateman's: Bateman's Hotel in Newport, RI, was an important resort and landmark.

drawing: Gordon Walden has drawn this image at this point in the letter.

malta lace: presumably Maltese lace.

Bessie Winthrop: It is possible that Bessie and Buck Winthrop (mentioned later) were Elizabeth Mason and Robert C. Winthrop, Jr. See the note below on the Masons.

Masons: Ellen Frances Mason was a mutual friend of Jewett and Gordon Walden. Her parents were Robert Means Mason and Sarah Ellen Francis. Her sister, Elizabeth Mason (1844-1929) was the fourth wife of Robert C. Winthrop, Jr. (1834-1905). Key to Correspondents.

Miss Lydine: Probably Lydine is a first rather than a last name. This person has not yet been identified.

The Wedding: Gordon Walden refers to the marriage of Dr. William Hunter Birckhead and Sarah Gordon King. Dr. Birckhead was Kate

Birckhead's brother. See her entry in Key to Correspondents.

Sarah Gibbs … Capt. Matthews: Probably Gibbs was Sarah Gibbs Thompson (1843-1924). She was the daughter of William Channing Gibbs (1787 - 21 February 1871), former governor of Rhode Island, and Mary Kane (1800-1873).

Later in the letter appear Mr. Gibbs, his wife, and mother. This may be Sarah Gibbs's older brother, Frederick Augustus Gibbs (1828-1893) and Jane Rosalie West (1834-1897), along with Mary Kane Gibbs.

Captain Matthews could be the Civil War veteran, David Andrew Matthews (1847-1923). He became a captain during the "Indian Wars." After leaving the army, he returned to Worcester, MA, where he eventually became Chief of Police in 1907.

"monarch of all he surveys": British poet William Cowper's (1731-1800) "The Solitude of Alexander Selkirk, " opens, "I am monarch of all I survey."

Mr. Reilly, Army officer: This is completely speculative. Henry Joseph Reilly (1845-1900) served in the U.S. Army artillery at the end of the Civil War, and by 1866 he had been promoted to Second Lieutenant. He died in battle during the Boxer Rebellion in China. A battery at Fort Adams in Newport, RI, was subsequently named for him. Whether he was in Newport in 1871 is not known.

the L.C. : This reference remains unknown. Locally, the L.C. has meant Little Compton, a Rhode Island town near Newport. Or perhaps Gordon Walden refers to a local club?

Mrs. Thorndike & Miss Wheaton: Residing in Newport at the time of this letter were Charles Thorndike (1834-1910) and his wife, Mary Edmondson Edgar (1836- 1910). See *The Harvard Graduates' Magazine* (1910) pp. 735-6.

In the absence of more information, it is difficult to speculate which Miss Wheaton this is. A possibility is Alice Wheaton (1833-1922).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Vernon & Mrs. Horner — Jack's mother: The Vernons were a prominent merchant family in Newport. This letter might refer to Sophia Peace Vernon (1802-1880) or to her daughter-in-law, Mary Peace White Vernon. According to *A History of the Vernon House in Newport, R.I*. by M. L. Stevens, Mrs. Horner was Sophia Vernon's sister (p. 51). Other internet documents indicate that this may be Anna Horner, but no further information has yet been located.

Presumably, the reference to Jack's mother is a joke related to the nursery rhyme, "Little Jack Horner."

Capt. Walters: This transcription is very uncertain; the name could even be "Matthews." If "Captain Walters" is intended, his identity remains unknown.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_022_01 .

Ella Maria Walworth Little to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston

Nov. 13. / 71

My dear Sara

I havn't* written you this week, for until this very minute I have been laboring under the delusion that you wrote me that you should come up some day last week{.} In rereading your letter I find that as Grace* is not at home you shall wait till she comes &c — How stupid of me, but after all it is only the nature of the —- .

[*Page 2*]

I am sorry to hear that you have been sick again{.} You must be a cautious child, now aren't you?

A change of air is just what you need. I wish you could let me know what day you are coming up this week, so I can be at home for you. I should be dreadfully disappointed to miss you. I havn't written to Mary* yet, but I mean to. She must be having a jolly time in Cincinnati. We are going to see Charlotte Cushman Tuesday evening in Catherine,* so we have been reading the play aloud. I [*unrecognized word*] have seen her, and I anticipate a

[*Page 3*]

a great deal, Emma* is [*two unrecognized words*] to go with us. Did I write you that I had an allowance, and I have great times settling my accounts. I know I could never be a book-keeper, for my debt & audit never balance. Aunt Joe* thinks I am very generous as I offered to

take her Tuesday out of my allowance! Now if you were only here I would take you, dearie.

Have you read 'My Wife and I'* — I think there are some splendid ideas in the book. I am reading it now, and to-morrow I am going to get that book you spoke of 'A Daughter

[*Page 4*]

of Heth.'* My time for reading is rather limited just now, for I havn't a dress to wear, and I have got to sew for myself — Oh these hard exacting [Mammas *?*]! mine, for instance. Mother's good moral lectures come to me a great deal [oftened *?*] than they use to. It must be that I am 'back sliding down hill{'} as Dollie Codman* used to say. I can sympathize with you on hats, but I am going to be milliner to day, and see what I can concoct from the scrap box. What a splendid day this is, clear and cold, a day when one feels like exercising. I should like to

[*Page 5*]*

all the morning if only I had somebody for company. Did I ever tell you Sara that my Cousin Charlie Hoyt* was editing a ^little^ paper in Chicago, and now for the question. Some time my dear, 'when you've nothing else to do' will you write a little piece of poetry for his paper. He would be perfectly delighted to have anything from your pen, for I told him about you when he was here last summer{.} Now please not feel obliged to do this Sara, for I only happened to think how nice it would be for him and so mentioned it.

I ought not to write longer

[*Page 6*]

this morning for I have so many things waiting for my fingers, not busy ones unfortunately. Write to me soon my dear, if you do not come up.

Very lovingly yours

Ella*

Notes

havn't: Walworth Little consistently spells the word this way in this letter.

Grace: Almost certainly Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Charlotte Cushman ... Catherine: American actor and singer Charlotte Saunders Cushman (1816-1876). Though this has not been confirmed, it seems likely that the play in which she performed was *Catherine of Cleves*, a drama translated by Francis Egerton, 1st Earl of Ellesmere (1800-1857) from Alexandre Dumas the Elder's (1802-1870) *Henri III et sa Cour* (1829).

Aunt Joe: Though a number of Walworth Little's aunts and uncles are listed at Find a Grave, there are no women who would seem likely to be called "Aunt Joe."

My Wife and I: American author, Harriet Beecher Stowe published *My Wife and I* in 1871. Key to Correspondents.

A Daughter of Heth: Scottish novelist William Black (1841-1898) published *A Daughter of Heth* in 1871. In 1873, he published one of Jewett's favorite novels, *A Princess of Thule*, the source of her name for her first horse, Sheila.

Dollie Codman: This person has not yet been identified.

Page 5: This page is written upside down on letterhead. Though the photocopy is difficult to make out, the letterhead appears to be an ornately decorated "W."

There is an envelope associated with this letter, addressed to "Sara O. Jewett" in South Berwick. There is no other readable information on the front. On the back is a note in another hand: Ella requests a poem for her cousin's paper 1871.

Charlie Hoyt: Charles Chase Hoyt (b. 1855) eventually went to work for Ella Walworth LIttle's father, in 1897 becoming vice-president of Walworth Manufacturing. See his letter to Jewett of 22 February 1876.

Ella: Apparently in another hand, this note appears below the signature: (a schoolmate of MRJ.)

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743, (57) Ella 1 letter; 1871.

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 4, Folder 159, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Georgina Halliburton to Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

28 November 1871*

———- And I ask you with me to look back often during this week upon the past and let us close the old year with devout thankfulness for past mercies — and prepare for the new with prayer and strong resolve to meet and perform all that is given us to do, so ere another twelve-month passes by, we may be more ready, reliable and faithful: let us do all the little things so well that that God may find us ready to bear heavier burdens, perhaps those of others or whatever He sees fit to send. If joy, may we give it to others, if sorrow we may carry it to Him. Let us strive with all this "Pride of Life" to remain humble, and to feel we are children of God, and for every treasure we possess here let us lay up double that treasure in Heaven, so when God calls us. it will not be hard to go for we will have more there than we leave behind. ————- Dear Sarah, when I think of our love for each other it makes me very happy, and it seems an instance of our treasure in Heaven — I love you, not for anything outward and I know you love me in the same way — We love what is good in each other, and that is God's, and is in Heaven, & the more we love our friends & each other in this way, the more we give unto God's Keeping. This is one of the happiest ways, save our love for God, of giving our treasure to Him, but we know of many ways beside. All the trials meekly borne, all deeds gently done, every right motive truly obeyed, & countless other ways which I am sure we know. We can, and I hope we will daily lay up our treasures in the blessed country where we shall one day meet them and be so glad to find them there before us — not behind, wasted and perished in the cold world. ————- We will try every day to give something pure to God. Even a little sacrifice if nobly given will He accept, one little temptation resisted, one evil habit conquered. God will not deem it too small to keep for us, No, dear. I am sure some day the little deeds; the little kind words; the very least of all will be there to welcome us, and we shall not be strangers; it will be Home. ————————-I have written just as I wish I could talk to you and I shall be sorry if I have not been able to convey my meaning but I think we understand each other's way of expressing now. [*Illegible deletion*] I trust you will agree with me and we will begin together this new year, not as we began the old, but as we finished it."

Notes

1871: Jewett copied this portion of the letter into her diary of 1871. She commented:

> ... one of the best letters I ever had in my life, & which has done me wonderful good. I like so much her idea expressed in the first of the letter, that the world-year & the Christian-year — are distinct & yet join together in one — one is the motive, & the other the action: "the one working out the aspirations and hopes, and building firmly the castles which in the holy year we have founded upon works of faith.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Carrie Jewett [Eastman] Fragment

5 Walnut St.*

Saturday Decr. 30th '71

Dear Carrie

I did have the best time yesterday, and I will begin at the beginning and tell you all about it. You know I said that Mrs Waterston asked me to come up yesterday at 12, so Grace and I started out, though it snowed. She was very glad to see [us *corrected*] and took us first into the large library which is like a room in a novel! First we looked at the paintings and there was a portrait by Vandyke* and an old Dutch portrait of a lady which I liked very much — Then we looked at some of the autograph letters which were very interesting. There was one of Napoleon the first's & Oliver Cromwell and Horace Walpole & Robert

[*Page 2*]

Burns* & a leaf from the manuscript of "Kenilworth" and quantities of others, & then we looked at the part of the library where the old books were: old missals and Bibles and one of the books which used to be chained in the churches — with the chain still hanging to it — These books you know were made before printing was discovered — and all done with pens — painted exquisitely with the illuminated borders and capital letters, all done by some old monk. It used to take almost a life time to copy a book. Then there were some of the first that were ever minted where the common letters were done with type and the coloured letters done by hand. & these could be done so much quicker that people thought the printers were in league with the devil! There

[*Page 3*]

was a copy of the famous Nuremberg Chronicle* which I had read a great deal about — Then, after we had looked over the books & pictures as much as we could we went into a smaller room beyond where there were cabinets of minerals ~~and~~ petrifaction & fossils of all kinds, & curiosities they brought from California — & then we went up stairs first into Mrs W's ~~own~~ chamber & then into her sitting room which was the most perfect room I ever saw. There is a portrait of her daughter Helen who died — which I could not keep my eyes off of, it was so lovely — and so many engravings and beautiful water-color paintings —. Oh dear! it was so charming! We stayed nearly two hours, and came away in the midst of a portfolio of pictures Mr. Waterston

[*Page 4*]

began to show us for we found it was so late & I had an engagement — She went up to his study & brought him down & he was so interested because I came from Berwick. He did have such a good time He & Grace{,} & Mrs. W. & I "paired off". I thought I liked Mrs. Greene tremendously but I am much more fond of Mrs. Waterston already and I have promised to go there always — I told her at Mrs. Greene's that I like the poetry which you know she had printed for her particular friends — & dont you think yesterday she gave me one of the books and a photograph of Helen! Somehow or other she knows I write and we were the greatest friends. She reminds me of Aunt Helen Gilman* somewhat. Well — after this we called upon the Soule's who were very pleasant though we could only stay a minute — and then we came home and I went to return Mrs Winthrops call and then

[*Text ends; no signature*]

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

I shall not spend Mothers money{.}

Notes

5 Walnut Street: The Boston home of Jewett's friend, Grace Gordon. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Waterston: The American writer Anna C. Quincy (1812-1899) married the author Rev. Robert Cassie Waterston (1812-1893). Their daughter, Helen Ruthven Waterston (1841-1858) died in Naples, Italy. Her main book of poems was *Verses* (1863). Her home was 526 Massachusetts Ave in Newton, MA.

Vandyke: Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641), a Flemish painter, who did much of his work in England.

Napoleon the first's ... Oliver Cromwell ... Horace Walpole & Robert Burns: Napoleon the first is Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), who became Emperor of the French in 1804.

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), the British military and political leader who served as head of state during the English revolution of 1640.

Horace Walpole (1717-1797), the British author and politician.

Robert Burns (1759-1796), the Scottish poet.

Kenilworth: Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) published his historical romance, *Kenilworth* in 1821.

Nuremberg Chronicle: Wikipedia says: "The *Nuremberg Chronicle* is an illustrated biblical paraphrase and world history that follows the story of human history related in the Bible; it includes the histories of a number of important Western cities. Written in Latin by Hartmann Schedel, with a version in German, translation by Georg Alt, it appeared in 1493. It is one of the best-documented early printed books ... and one of the first to successfully integrate illustrations and text."

Mrs Greene: Probably this is Anna Blake Shaw (1817-1901), who married the minister and activist, William Batchelder Greene (1819-1878). Their daughter, Elizabeth (Bessie, 1846-1875), became a benefactor of the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

Aunt Helen Gilman: Mrs. Helen Williams Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

the Soule's: While this is far from certain, it is probable Jewett refers to John Payson Soule (1828-1904), a Boston photographer, and his first wife, Harriet Campbell (1825-1884).

Mrs Winthrops: Probably, this is Cornelia Adeline "Adele" Granger (1819/20 - 1892), widow of John Eliot Thayer (1803-1857), who was the third wife of Robert Charles Winthrop, an American lawyer, politician, and philanthropist. Representing Massachusetts, he was Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1847-49. Her parents were the politician Francis Granger and Cornelia Rutson Van Rensselaer.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women

Writers Collection: Jewett Correspondence MWWC0196_02_00_062_01.

1872

Katherine de Costa Birckhead to Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

22 January 1872*

When these dark days come again remember this, that you have within reach the "Friend of friends" that He knows all you are feeling & thinking, and that He will never "grow tired or disgusted with your weakest efforts, so long as they are efforts; After this put by self, and set to work to try & be some thing for some body else! Never mind who or what it is. This is always the best remedy" ————

Notes

1872: Jewett copied this portion of the letter into her diary of 1872.

Transcribed and annotated by Terry Heller, Coe College, with assistance of Linda Heller and Kelly Sanders.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry

Sunday evening

28th Jany 1872

Dear Aunty:

Thank you for yr. letter which came in good time — for we were all depending upon hearing from you — I was glad to find out about the essay. You will be surprised to hear that Father is going to New York — ^tomorrow,^ that is, if his cold is well enough — He [has *corrected*] been quite ill all the week and I knew from former experiences that he would not refuse going to see people now he is better — and so he would

[*Page 2*]

be tired out and miserable for weeks to come. Anything is better for him than being here — and Mother & I have given him no peace & silenced every argument — & Mary* has written appealingly & he has consented to go, & now quite enjoys the idea — I know it will do him good. It will if he is at all like me — for when I last went to Boston I was scarcely able to sit up the day before & had not been "outside the door" for a week with a bad cold 'on my lungs' & that same afternoon

[*Page 3*]

was out shopping minus any extra wrappings & stayed out until dark in the midst of a December drizzle & half snow storm & have continued in good health to the present time! ——- I can scarcely wait until Saturday to see Mary — though I gave up missing her long ago — I 'want to see her' in the same fashion that I do Kate or Grace* — only more so — It will be very lonely without Father this week but I have planned a great deal that is to be done — I do hope Georgie* will not send for me to pass next Sunday with

[*Page 4*]

her. I promised surely to go down as soon as she came home — and of course I wouldn't go this week — I have written her a letter to guard against the invitation's being sent — if possible — I did not go the other time that I promised & hardly like to disappoint her plans again — I am to go Friday & stay until Tuesday, & that would be out of the question when Mary has just arrived. Of course though, now I have written her she will not think of such a thing — but I feared

[*Page 5*]

I should have a letter from her before she got mine —

I am overwhelmed at Miss Mathewson's* ignorance of Miss Austen! How much pleasure she has to anticipate — no — I don't believe she would enjoy her stories much, do you? Particularly if she has Dumas & George Sand* for her intimates. I don't think I remember Miss Austen very well, in spite of my fondness for her —* It all comes back to me as I read, but, I had forgotten [the *corrected*] stories almost entirely & the last time I read them was not more than

[*Page 6*]

three years ago — But the books I read then I do not remember so well as a year or two before & after — I think one reason was that they were nearly all the same kind of books — (novels) and there is no effort about reading them — All the reasoning is done for you and all the thinking as one might say. It seems to me like hearing somebody talk on and on and on, while you have no part in the conversation — & merely

listen — — I had a clear idea in my head when I started to tell you my 'views' but I find myself rather involved

[*Page 7*]

and consider that I had best leave it! But I have quite a grown-up feeling when I try to re-read some story I remember being absorbed in [four *corrected from* for] or five years ago — and find I cannot get up any interest in it. Not that I have objections to a good novel now by any means but — I do like other things ^too^ & am glad of it — I am glad Fannie* likes 'the Alice book'* — it made a great impression on my mind, & I am anxious to read it again.

We all dined at the Doe's'* last Wednesday and had such a jolly time — The Judge is at home after quite a long absence. There is a prospect of another

[*Page 8*]

'hostility' after Mary comes — Mrs. Edith is as anxious to see her as any of us — I am not very [brilliant *corrected*] this evening, though Uncle William was here to tea & Charlotte and 'Lisha* have been in since, & they were all agreeable. Oh dear! if one could only remember those letters one composes in bed o' nights! I know mine would be so entertaining that my friends would insist upon their "being preserved in a volume!"

Carrie* was glad you liked the mats — I am delighted that they are in fashion again{.} I always thought them so pretty — You know I do not usually appreciate fancy work!

Love to Grandpa* and 'our cousin' Prim —

Yr. very aff.

[Sallie *corrected*]

Notes

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Kate or Grace: Katherine de Costa Birckhead and Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden. Key to Correspondents.

Georgie: Georgina Halliburton (1849-1910). Key to Correspondents.

Miss Mathewson's: This person has not yet been identified.

Miss Austen: British novelist, Jane Austen (1775-1817). Richard Cary notes:

> Miss Jewett's attitude toward Jane Austen oscillated. In childhood she dodged her father's thoughtful recommendations of Sterne, Fielding, Smollett, and Cervantes for "the pleasant ways of *Pride and Prejudice*" ("Looking Back on Girlhood," *Youth's Companion*, LXV [January 7, 1892], 6). At the present juncture, Austen's attraction seems to have faded. In her fifties, the tug of nostalgia brought about another change of heart. "Yesterday afternoon I amused myself with Miss Austen's *Persuasion*. Dear me, how like her people are to the people we knew years ago! It is just as much New England before the war — that is, in provincial towns — as it ever was Old England. I am going to read another, *Persuasion* tasted so good!" (Fields, *Letters*, 185.)

Dumas & George Sand: French authors, Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) and Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin (George Sand, 1804-1876). Richard Cary notes:

> Miss Jewett's adulation of the Frenchwoman lasted over the years. In May 1888 she ordered a copy of Mme. Sand's letters from a New York dealer...; in December she declared, "I am willing to study French very hard all winter in order to read her comfortably in the spring!" (Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* [Boston, 1911], 38); in 1890 she cried out ecstatically, "I really know Madame Sand," after reading her letter to Mme. d'Agoult (Fields, *Letters*, 75); and in 1893 she quoted from Sand's *Légendes Rustiques* to support her impassioned defense of provincial values (Preface to *Deephaven*).

Fannie: Richard Cary says "Frances Fiske Perry, daughter of Aunt Lucretia, ...was ten years old at this time and an omnivorous reader. Of serious tendency, she earned the soubriquet 'Miss Prim,' by which Miss Jewett alludes to her in the last line of the letter.*

Alice book: British author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll, 1832-1898) published *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking Glass* (1871). Presumably, Jewett has recently read the newer title.

Doe's: Judge Charles Cogswell Doe (1830-1896) and his family, including Jewett's friend Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents.

Richard Cary notes:

> [Judge Doe was] appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire at 29, retained his rustic clothes and manners during sessions. A raconteur of uncommon facility, he punctuated his stories with earth-born phrases and laconic flashes of philosophic insight. Behind his rugged humors lay a vast kindliness and tolerance.
>
> His wife, Edith Haven Doe (1840-1922), formerly of Portsmouth, was the daughter of Mr. George Wallis Haven, and the stepsister of Georgia Halliburton. Of superior intelligence and engaging personality, she was renowned as a helpmeet and hostess. The Doe home at Rollinsford, a frequent anchorage for the Jewett sisters, was about a mile from their own.

Uncle William … Charlotte and 'Lisha: Jewett's paternal uncle, William Durham Jewett and her cousin, Elisha H. Jewett, who married Charlotte Tilton Cross. Key to Correspondents.

Carrie: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Grandpa: Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine. It was previously transcribed, edited and annotated by Richard Cary for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Maggie Baker (Hunt) to Mary Rice Jewett

Covington [*KY*]

Mch 24th 72

Dear Mary

I have just looked at the date of your letter and find that it was written just a month ago. Well 'tis time it was answered surely but I thought it had been in my possession longer than that! I suppose it was because I had it on my mind that I wanted to write you. But haven't I been over head and ears in business. Oh! my! Will you just get those white kids* and pack the rest of your worldly goods and come out here and I will tell what I have been busy

[*Page 2*]

about. You know you promised to come, didn't you? The Dr.* and I have been engaged over a month and the 30th of April is decided upon for the wedding day (D.V.).* You remember I told you I did not favor long engagements. Of course it gives us a great deal to do in a short time, but I rather like it. I expect Katie W.* in about a week and then wont there be some excitement. Mary I do think I am the very happiest girl in the country. The Dr. is so good and I have so many many blessings. I do wish that you and Sarah could be here, but I can scarcly [*intended* scarcely] hope for it.

[*Page 3*]

We may include Boston in our trip and if we do wouldn't you come down to see us? I should love to see you both.

I expect this letter is scarcely readable, but I hope you will excuse all for I had only a few moments in which to write. I had to write to Katie before I began this and now it is six o'clock and time to dress for supper.

Father & Mother are both well and join me in love to all.

Let me hear from you soon.

Truly your friend

Maggie.

Notes

white kids: Wikipedia reports that kid leather, the skin of young goats, typically used for gloves and shoes, is particularly valued for flexibility and thinness.

Dr.: Dr. William Hunt. See Maggie Baker Hunt in Key to Correspondents.

(D.V.): This transcription is uncertain, Baker may mean "Deo volente," or God willing.

Katie W: This transcription is uncertain. In her 1869 diary, Jewett mentions two women named Kate who spent time with her and Maggie Baker in Cincinnati and Covington: Kate Burt and Kate Scudder. This "Katie" appears to be someone else known to both of them.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Katherine de Costa Birckhead to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*31 March 1872*]

"Trust" (Faber)

"The Right Must Win"

— — — —

"O! it is hard to work for God,
To rise & take His part
Upon this battle-field of earth,
And not some-times lose heart."

— — — —

"He hides Himself so wondrously,
As though there were no God:
He is least seen when all the powers
Of ill are most abroad:"

— — — —

"Or He deserts us at the hour
The fight is all but lost;
And seems to leave us to ourselves
Just when we need Him most."

— — — —

O! there is less to try our faith,
In our mysterious creed,
Than in the godless look of earth
In these our hours of need."

[*Page 2*]

"Ill masters good; good seems to change
To ill with greatest ease;
And, worst of all, the good with good
Is at cross purposes."

— — — —

"The Church, the Sacraments, the Faith
Their up-hill journey take,
Lose here, what there they gain, and, if
We lean upon them — break."

— — — —

"It is not so, but so it looks;
And we lose courage then;
And doubts will come if God hath kept
His promises to men."

— — — —

"Ah! God is other than we think;
His ways are far above;
Far beyond reason's height & reached
Only by childlike love".

— — — —

"The look, the fashion of God's ways
Love's life-long study are;
She can be bold, & guess & act,
When reason wd. not dare."

— — — —

[*Page 3*]

"She has a prudence of her own;
Her step is firm & free;
There is cautious science too
In her simplicity."

— — — —

"Workman of God! O, lose not heart,
But learn what God is like;
And in the darkest battle-field
Thou shalt know where to strike."

— — — —

"O, blest is he to whom is given
The instinct that can tell
That God is on the ~~battle-~~field, when He
Is the most invisible."

— — — —

"And bless'd is he who can divine
Where real right doth lies,
And dares to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blindfold eyes!"

— — — —

"O! learn to scorn the praise of men!
And learn to lose with God!
For Jesus won the world through shame,
And beckons thee His road".

[*Page 4*]

"God's glory is a wondrous thing,
Most strange in all its ways,
And of all things on earth, least like
What men agree to praise".

— — — —

"As He can endless glory weave
From time's misjudging shame,
In His own world He is content
To play a losing game".

— — — —

"Muse on His justice, downcast soul!
Muse, & take better heart;
Back with thine angel to the field,
Good luck shall crown thy part!"

— — — —

"God's justice is a bed where we
Our anxious hearts may lay,
And, weary with ourselves, may sleep
Our discontent away."

— — — —

"For right is right, since God is God;
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter were to sin."

7. Mary St. Newport, R.I.

Easter. March 31st 1872

[*Up the right margin of p. 4*]

Copied for dear "Sally Orne" by her affectionate friend, Kate de C B.

[*Page 6*]*

You ask
me what
my favorite
"collect"* is?

_____
4th Sunday
in Advent

_____
1. 2. 3. 4.
After Epiphany

_____
4th after
Easter ——-

_____
Sunday
after Ascension

_____
6th 7th 9th 12th 21st
After Trinity

_____
_____
All these

_____
Are favorites
perhaps
"Sunday after
[*Unrecognized word*]" — = 4th

[*Page 7*]

in advent."

_____
12th 21st
after Trinity.
2d Sunday
after Epiphany
Are the
best-beloved

_____
Kate —

Notes

"Trust": This title seems to have been added by Birckhead. "The Right Must Win" is a hymn by Frederick William Faber (1814-1863). Birckhead's transcription differs in minor ways from the text as presented in Faber's Hymns (1894), pp. 108-11: most notably the decorative lines between stanzas, the quotation marks for each stanza, and a few variations in punctuation. Lacking knowledge of her source, I cannot tell which are her enhancements and which appear in her source.

Page 6: This and the following page appear to have been written on two sides of a narrow paper, like a bookmark. I have transcribed showing line breaks to reflect the appearance of the page.

"collect": Birckhead refers to seasons and dates in the Liturgical Year. "Collects" are short prayers appearing in the denominational prayer book, said during particular services during the liturgical year. Jewett and Birckhead would have been using an Episcopalian prayer book.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 039

Ellen Frances Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

Easter Day

1 Walnut St

[31 *March 1872*]*

Dear Sarah,

You see I keep to our agreement and have discarded the formal Miss. I want to send you an Easter greeting. How I wish that all Christians would adopt the custom which exists in Germany of saying on Easter morning,

[*Page 2*]

instead of the usual "Good Morning" — "The Lord is risen"! And then the answer is — "And hath appeared unto Simon"* —

It is so natural, because that is what must be in the heart of every Christian on this glad day —

The weather certainly is disappointing, but I try to think that if it were always fine on these occasions, we might get to depend too much on sensational emotion, and of course it

[*Page 3*]

is more spiritual to have it all entirely within us, not affected by anything external. The Churches perhaps looked more charming from contrast with the dismal scene out-of-doors. The flowers were most beautiful. I went this afternoon to "Trinity" to the children's service. Mr Brooks* made a very nice address, telling us about three lessons to be learnt from the teaching of this

Easter-tide — first, that Christ having risen, is always

[*Page 4*]

with us, then that we also are to rise and live forever, and lastly that there must be a constant resurrection in ourselves — the good seed being quickened and the higher side of our nature brought out. It does not sound like anything as I have put it, but Mr Brooks had first been paraphrasing the walk to Emmaus, and then told [of *or* us *?*] how the disciples must have applied these lessons to themselves, bringing out finally their bearing upon all of us. I did not intend to write so much when I began, but I find it very pleasant to talk with you — I did not

[*Up the left and across the top margins of page 1*]

have time to answer your little note which you gave me just before you left. It is very sweet of you to want to give me "Temple Lessons",* and I know that I shall enjoy them all the more for their association with you — Thank you so much.

With love

yr sincere friend

Ellen Mason

Notes

1872: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, cancelled on 1 April, and labeled "Miss Ellen Mason. Easter." Assuming that the association is correct, this makes it nearly certain that the letter was composed in 1872, when Easter fell on 31 March.

This appears to be the first letter in which Mason addresses Jewett as "Sarah." Currently, we have no letters between them from before 1873, and in those later letters Mason addressed Jewett as "Sarah."

Simon: In Biblical accounts of the resurrection of Jesus, the first to see him after his return from the dead is Mary Magdalene, who then brings disciples to the tomb, including Simon Peter. Another appearance occurs to two disciples as they walk to the village of Emmaus with a stranger whom they eventually recognize as Jesus. See Luke 24.

Trinity ... Mr Brooks: Phillips Brooks became rector of Trinity Church, Boston, in 1869. Key to Correspondents.

Temple Lessons: What Mason means is not clear. Perhaps Jewett plans to give her a copy of Walter Field's *Stones of the Temple, or Lessons from the Fabric and Furniture of the Church* (1871), but this is only a guess.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Mason, Ellen Francis, 1846-1930. 4 letters; [1900 & n.d.]. bMS Am 1743 (148).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Cora Lee Clark to Sarah Orne Jewett

629 [Marren / Marion Street *?*]*

Boston Highlands

April [11th *?*]

[*c. 1872*]*

Dear Sarah

I was very happy to receive your welcome note, and only sorry that the last time you [were in Boston *?*] I did not have the pleasure or opportunity of seeing you. I saw you at Trinity church* in the distance on that memorable Wednesday evening, and [as *?*] I first saw you come in with Grace* was quite startled for I thought you were Georgie.* There is certainly a very strong resemblance between you two girls. I told

[*Page 2*]

Grace who sat in front of me that I would come in and see you the following day if I possibly could, but the next day I was [*three or four unrecognized words*] at home —

I wanted to speak to you after church but as you sat behind me you had left before I could get out. Thus I think dear Sarah the best thing for you to do, is send me a time the next time you come to Boston and [and *repeated*] I will make it an especial point to come and see you.

I should have answered your note before but I expected to be in possession

[*Page 3*]

of a photograph which I am going to send you provided you return the compliment when you

have a picture to spare. I would like one of [*three or four unrecognized words*] for I think they were so good.

I have enjoyed hearing Mr. Brooks* so much this winter. There is something very grand and at the same time very simple in the truths he utters. The strongest intellect can be [*unrecognized word*] and [*unrecognized word*] by his words, and the mind of a child can be strengthened and purified by listening to such a preacher. He is truly a

[*Page 4*]

[masterful *?*] man and the good he must have done to the men and women who have heard him is [inestimable *?*].

Georgie spent a night with me about a fortnight ago. She is taking [*the remainder of this sentence seems to read*: somebody will and appears to be one such grand spirit.]

Let me know dear Sarah when you publish anything new as I am always interested in what you write and enjoy reading it.

With much love for your sister* and yourself

Cora Lee Clark

Notes

629 [*Marren / Marion Street ?*]: The transcription of the address is uncertain. There is a Marion Street in contemporary Boston, but not in the area of Roxbury, formerly Boston Highlands.

c. 1872: Cora Clark married John Hamilton Rice on 4 December 1872. As the letter indicates that Jewett has been publishing, it must have been written after 1869, which also was the year when Phillips Brooks became rector at Trinity Church, Boston. Because Brooks has been preaching at Trinity for some time, 1872 is a reasonable guess for the year of composition.

Trinity church: Boston's Trinity Church (Episcopal).

Grace: Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden, though at the time of this letter, she was not yet married. She married in 1885. Key to Correspondents.

Georgie: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Brooks: Phillips Brooks, rector of Trinity Church. Key to Correspondents.

sister: Probably Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry

12 May 1872 [*South*] Berwick

Dear Aunty:

Thank you so much for your letter which I read twice with great speed and interest and have referred to since, at intervals. I think you must have been sent into the world with a natural gift for writing letters! —— I have enjoyed myself today very much, for the Bishop* preached in Dover this morning and Mary* & I drove over to hear him, & were repaid by a very fine sermon. & this afternoon he preached in Salmon Falls at the little old Episcopal church — and every body went to hear him and [were *or* was] delighted

[*Page 2*]

with him, and I was very proud of my Bishop. We had a nice talk with him after church and I think he will come over to-morrow to see us — He promised to do so if he had time.

Only think of Uncle John's going abroad! If it were my Uncle Will* I should 'put in' to be taken along — (Don't you think he would like to take charge of a party of ladies? ——) I wish very much to go travelling, and all the English history which I have been reading this winter makes me wish to go to England more than I ever have before. The Walworths* sail next month

[*Page 3*]

and are to go directly to England & spend a great deal of time there, because Ella went there last, when she was abroad before — and could not see so much as she wished — She is coming down for a day or two before she goes — I shall not miss her particularly because she is always up to the mountains or somewhere in the [summer *corrected*] and I never think of seeing her. & she will write me just as often, & much more interesting letters probably, so I am to be the gainer after all.

Monday

I did not finish my letter last evening as I [intended *smeared*]

[*Page 4*]

because Uncle William* and Father arrived from a journey to Wells, and I had to assist in giving them their late tea. Father went to Portsmouth this morning & then I went to Great Falls with him, & he was just on the point of starting for North Conway when he discovered the train does not go farther than Ossipee except in the morning — & so he must wait. I wish I could go with him — for I am so fond of the mountains. & it is so delightful to have them only three hours away, now this railroad has been extended. Mary & I mean to go up to Conway by & by.

I treasure up all you tell me about studying — and I really have accomplished a great deal

[*Page 5*]

lately — I have been translating a French novel, & find I had not forgotten so much as I feared. It was very entertaining one night I threw down my dictionary, ~~and~~ you see I made a rule to 'look out' every word I didn't know — and read until very late at night for it grew very exciting! I had great misgivings as to whether I ought not to go back and translate it all as literally as I began, but I had not the necessary strength of mind! Then I read a very nice book about ancient Iceland which I have finished, and I have now Ray's Mental Hygiene and Froude's History of Elizabeth, and a book on Instinct in Animals and Men*

[*Page 6*]

which is one of the most interesting things I ever read & I have learned so much from it. I wonder if I have told you that I allow myself a certain number of pages every day of course exceeding if I like — I find the English history goes off very fast at fifty pages a day, at any rate, and sometimes a hundred, and I read one of the lectures on Instinct. Last week I had also, Loyola and the Jesuits —* which enlightened my mind a good deal. I am beginning at this late day to see the immense advantage of being systematic. Even the small success I have achieved in my 'lessons' has encouraged me — and I mean to keep on.

Ellen

[*Page 7*]

Mason's* busy ways ~~have~~ made me ashamed of myself when I was with her for she seemed to accomplish so much and I — nothing. She appears both delighted and amazed at finding out that she has had an influence for good over me, for she says it is one of the defects of her character to be restless and 'on the go' all the time and so her using her time more than other people do is more a weakness than anything else — & it is so strange that [she *corrected from* I] should have done me good — The girl doesn't take into consideration, you see, that she uses her time better

[*Page 8*]

than other people, only that she uses it more! I am having a very pleasant correspondence with her just now — I don't know whether it will be permanent but I enjoy it very much & she seems to, also. She sent me a very sweet letter at Easter which I answered and we have gone on flourishingly since — though to be sure there have been one or two subjects under consideration, not very important subjects perhaps, but still we wished to communicate — I was in Portsmouth one day a week or two ago — & have been expecting Georgie up to Mrs. Doe's,* but I believe

[*Page 9*]

Mrs. Haven* has had visitors. Mary had quite a long letter from Uncle John today. ^There was no news in it except about some of Mary's & my friends there.^ I was quite astonished to find it was the fifteenth of June that he is to sail. I thought it was the fifteenth of May — Wednesday! Mother has been better for the last two days and I hope she will have no return of her neuralgia but it has come on twice, after letting her alone for a day or two, which is very discouraging. She has been expecting to see Grandpa — We enjoyed Willy Fiske's* little visit very much. I do think he is

[*Page 10*]

one of the nicest boys in the world — I had a note from Mr. Howells* one day last week asking me to have patience with him, and saying that he should print the Shore House* as soon as he possibly could. If he had not been so kind and seemed so sorry to keep me waiting I should have been provoked at waiting so long — but he has had good reasons all the time — But I know other people are kept waiting too, & people

whom one would imagine would be "served first"* ——

I have written you a long letter, but I am afraid not a very interesting one! Goodby — my love to Fanny, & Grandpa & Uncle Will, and yourself.

Affly — S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Mary has just informed me that she wrote you today! You will have all the news! No matter!

Notes

Bishop: Richard Cary writes:

> William Woodruff Niles (1832-1914), Canadian-born clergyman, became the second Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire in 1870. He demonstrated literary capacity as joint editor of the *Churchman* and as a member of the commissions for revising the prayer-book and the marginal readings in the Bible. Although born in a Congregationalist family, Miss Jewett was baptized and confirmed an Episcopalian in her twenty-first year.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Uncle John's … Uncle Will: Uncle Will is Dr. William Gilman Perry, husband of Aunt Lucretia. Key to Correspondents. Of Uncle John, Richard Cary notes that "John Taylor Perry was another of Miss Jewett's maternal uncles. After twenty-five years as editor and part owner of the Cincinnati *Gazette,* he returned to his birthplace, Exeter, New Hampshire, where he resided until his death."

Walworths: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Uncle William: William Durham Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Ray's Mental Hygiene ... Instinct in Animals and Men: Richard Cary has identified the books Jewett mentions:

> The book about ancient Iceland is possibly *The Story of the Volsungs and Niblungs* (London, 1870), translated by Eirikr Magnusson and William Morris. The other books are Isaac Ray, *Mental Hygiene* (Boston, 1863); James Anthony Froude, *History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Death of Elizabeth* (London, 1856-1870, 12 vols.; P. A. Chadbourne, *Instinct: Its Office in the Animal Kingdom and its Relation to Higher Powers in Man* (New York, 1872); Stewart Rose, *Ignatius Loyola, and the Early Jesuits* (London, 1870).

Ellen Mason's: Ellen Frances Mason . Key to Correspondents.

Georgie … Mrs. Doe's: Georgina Halliburton and Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Haven: Susan Hamilton Peters Haven. See George Wallis Haven in Key to Correspondents.

Willy Fiske's: Richard Cary identifies Willy: "Mrs. Perry's nephew William Perry Fiske was the son of her brother Frank Fiske, who had married Abigail G. Perry. Some members of this family used the final *e* in the cognomen, some did not."

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Shore House: Jewett's "The Shore House appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly,* XXXII (September 1873), 358-368.

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine. It was previously transcribed, edited and annotated by Richard Cary for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theodore Herman Jewett

Wednesday morning

[*4 September 1872*]*

I am so glad you are having a good time: this dogday weather has been horrid and not one of us has felt like doing anything. I dont think there is anything to call you home. I have had my saddle fixed so I would rather have it than a new one. We all went to ride yesterday at different times — I had a very nice birthday indeed. Perhaps we should have driven down today if it had been pleasant. —

With much love Sarah

Notes

1872: This date is speculative, but it has some support. Jewett writes on what appears to be the day after her birthday, 3 September. If she wrote on 4 September, that date fell on Wednesday in 1867, 1872, and 1878. In

September 1878, her father was in very ill health, dying on 20 September. 1867 also is unlikely, for then Jewett had just turned 18 and typically wrote in a more childish voice. Though the card could easily have been written almost any year between 1870 and 1877, 1872 seems highly likely.

This postcard is addressed to Dr. Jewett at Atlantic House, Wells Beach, ME.

The manuscript of this postcard is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 265.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cambridge — Nov 4 / 72

My dear Miss Jewett —

I have been ill, too ill to write, and am not well now. This is one reason why I have delayed answering your very interesting letter. Only one reason however. I was also quite willing that time should do a little of its work. I hoped you would think over some of the topics you wrote of: and I thought you would think about them [*2 stricken words*] to more advantage, if I let you alone.

One error under which you labour, was perhaps inevitable. Nothing that you knew of the history of religion, prepared you for viewing the New church system of belief, as anything but another sectarian system; taking its place with [Episcopal], or Orthodoxy or Unitarian, and accepted or [respected *?*] as it seems better or more than they. If accepted, to be taken as a whole which sets aside the rest; if not so accepted [then to be respected *?*].

This is true of all the other forms of Christian faith of which you know anything; but it is not true of this. For this is a universal system; it is a new way of thinking about every possible topic of thought. True it has its essentials; but they are few and simple. The divinity of our Lord, the sanctity of the Word, & the necessity of a life in accord with the Word. These are all. And all these you believe now. But if these are all, what more can there be? My answer is this. Every thing else is subordinate to these, & for the sake of these. All other truths are intended to enlarge & clarify our comprehension of these truths, to strengthen our belief of these, & help us to live what we believe. This is an infinite and eternal work. But it is not just the same work for any two persons; they can no more think just alike, than they can occupy the same space physically. They may repeat the same word, or subscribe the same creeds. But each one must be himself or herself.

You have read enough already to recognize the truth, that man has a twofold nature, one affectional, one intellectual; & these however related or conjoined, are still distinct.

You have read too, & perhaps will understand me when I remind you, that man has ~~a~~ yet another twofold nature, the natural & the spiritual. It may be that you will understand me, when I say that Christianity in none of its forms or developments, has ever appealed to or offered food to the spiritual intellectual, while in all of them it has appealed to & nourished the spiritual affectional. Let me try to present this intelligibly. Every form of Christianity has declared that there was a God, & has presented the truth that to love Him with the whole heart & soul is the one thing needful. [*It has?*] invested the Scriptures with a sacredness, which until our own days, was almost universally acknowledged & respected. And it taught the commandments of the Bible as laws of life.

All this appears to & nourishes the affections & the life.

But what has been told, what known, intellectually about any of these things? I have not space to exhibit this at any length. But must ask you to reflect, & tell yourself, how much any religion has told to the reason of man, clearly, definitely, & satisfactorily, of the Father or the Son, or the relations between them; of God & man or their relations; of the other life, & its nature, laws & forms.

But for all this mankind [*one or two deleted words*] were preparing. And in the fullness of time, the fullest information has been given on all these points, and on all topics connected with them.

We may [*deleted word*] now, if we will, profit by this information. Especially may we learn not only that but how we live here to prepare for angelic life; & we may [*deleted word*] learn just what angelic life & character are, that we may turn to account the opportunities afforded us for acquiring that character; and we may learn too & see that our life on earth is composed of & consists wholly of such

opportunities, poorly and feebly as we profit by them.

We may learn all this. Shall we? None will learn much, few will learn anything. It may be that many will learn a very little, & turn that little to account. Men & women will go on, improving their spiritual affectional nature, as they have done, & more than they have hitherto done, from the indirect effort of these new revelations. I see evidence of this all around me.

But who will profit by [*them?*] as to their spiritual intellectual nature? Only they whose love of truth cannot be satisfied with merely natural truth boundless as are its stores in arts & science, & the true & the beautiful on its own plane. Only they who want something more than this; and want it enough to [pay/face *?*] the cost of it.

Are you one of these? I do not know, and let me say you do not know yet. I believe you are, although for a time you may be led to reject or disregard these opportunities. The enemies of your soul will present every obstruction in their power. But your friends are more than your enemies. They will not do your work in your stead. But they will protect your freedom, & help you if you will accept their help. And I [*hope,?*] faithfully [ys *?*]

Theophilus Parsons.

Notes

New Church: Wikipedia says: "The New Church (or Swedenborgianism) is the name for several historically related Christian denominations that developed as a new religious movement, informed by the writings of Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772)."

The ms. of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: bMS Am 1743 (174).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

Green Bay. Wis. 14 Nov. '72.*

Dear Prof. Parsons —

Your letter reached me here yesterday and I am so glad to have heard from you. You understood exactly the spirit in which I wrote you and I am so glad, for I must confess I have had some fear lest what I said might have seemed a definite & final rejection of these new — and yet old — ideas, and a misunderstanding of the whole thing. I suppose I have looked at it as merely 'another sect,' but before your letter came and even before I sent mine I was not so

[*Page 2*]

sure of that point. I could not help seeing that I had been wrong and while I was writing the thought flashed into my mind. [I am *corrected*] sure that [*deletion*] your judgment is better than my own in this, and I see already that my heart is taking hold very strongly upon what I learned from you personally and from 'The Infinite and the Finite'.* I [mourn *corrected*] every day that I left that book and the book of Essays at home.* I put them together and then left them after all — & I am so sorry for I am afraid of forgetting and confusing the things they taught me. I did not have time to read

[*Page 3*]

much of the last book for I came away suddenly just after I wrote you last. I was in New York ten days and since then I have been travelling about from one place to another. I am farther west now than I have ever been before, and before I 'go back to my subject' I must tell you of a new and delightful experience I had last Sunday.

I went out to the Oneida settlement which is about twelve miles from here.* There is an [Episcopal *corrected from* episcopal] church and the congregation [is *corrected from* are] all Indians. I never had seen many before and these looked so like the Indians in my picture books when I

[*Page 4*]

was a little girl, that I half expected to hear the war-whoops and to be scalped and tomahawked before I knew it! They were [very devout *corrected*] and are said to be a most pious community but they certainly do not look so. The rector told me ^he^ had [lived *corrected*] there twenty years. I had a very nice talk with him. —

The Sunday before I was [at *corrected*] Grace Church in New York,* and I was very much struck with the contrast in the two congregations!

I do not know what has made me hesitating and uncertain — to go back to your letter and my own — [was *perhaps capitalized*] it very natural that I should be? Is it the uncertainty that is apt to assail us — the usual

[*Page 5*]

2

difficulty when there is a decision ^of this kind^ to be made? It was no outside influence which made me lose any interest, but I thought it over and over — and I grew afraid. You know the reputation which the doctrines of the New church have — that they are intricate and visionary: that they are adopted by comparatively few people. If you ask nine persons out of ten what they think they will tell you something of this kind, — and very likely follow many of its teachings without the least idea that they know the first step of the way.

[*Page 6*]

There was one hindrance: then I found a good deal of discouragement for myself. It was all so plain and 'came home' to me so thoroughly when you talked to me and when I read your book. But I tried some of those tracts you gave me and they did confuse me very much and I did not like them half so well. I had read some of them — The statements of the doctrines & the Ribbon of Blue and one or two others, and liked them as I told you, but the extracts from Swedenborg's writings and the rest — I suppose I did not understand or interpret to myself and I had the feeling

[*Page 7*]

that it was no use to try to go any farther — that there was enough in that book of yours, and I would not try to puzzle out the details. I think you will say that I am particularly sensible in expecting to take in the whole grand idea, [in *corrected*] one short fortnight — to ~~learn~~ ^know^ the whole journey in its details and most minute characteristics, because I have found out that there is such a journey and have taken a few steps! This is my fault is not it? I have learned a great deal; I have begun my journey — I have enough to show me the way for the present. That is all right; when I need more God will teach me

[*Page 8*]

and so I will get on as fast as I can. There is always that verse of mine: "If any man will do His will, he shall know the doctrine."* Certainly if I am a very useless girl, very careless about pleasing God and contented to be letting the chances for growing better go by me — Oh, how much good that chapter of your book has done me! He never will make me very wise or give me any extraordinary [*deletion*] knowledge of Himself. It worried me very much at one time. I feared that I should disappoint you and that you would think I had no heart in the interest I ^had^ [shown *corrected*]* —

I am so sorry you

[*Page 9*]

3

have been ill and I hope by this time you are quite well again. I shall probably not be in Boston or at home until the last of January or February. I am travelling with some friends and may possibly go quite far south & there are some visits to be made in Brooklyn and Phila. after my return. The first time I am in Boston I shall try very hard to see you if ~~only~~ for a few minutes. I so often wish to ask you questions, but after all perhaps it is better for me to be alone — It has always been so; I know when I first thought of being

[*Page 10*]

good at all it seemed so hard that I so seldom saw the one or two people I depended upon, but I see now how much better it was. Kate Birckhead* told me so once when I had written her a most wretched letter telling her how much I wished I were with her and it seemed so hard at first to believe that she was right. I began a letter to you while I was in New York one day after I had had a great discussion with a gentleman{,} a friend of Father's who knows a great deal and could easily upset my arguments. It was not what he said but what he suggested that I could not answer. It is so hard sometimes not to envy some of my

[*Page 11*]

friends who never in all their lives had a question of that kind which gave them any uneasiness, whereas I am always instinctively doubting and am sure to be aware of all the opposite side. It takes very strong effort to say 'I believe' when there is such an avalanche of 'unbelief'. But I have seen the clouds go away and the sun shine out so many times that I [*deletion*] seldom get [much *corrected*] discouraged now as to the result. You have said in your letter just what I needed and I have read it over and over. I brought the first one with me & like it more every time I read it. It was only yesterday that I said to someone some of the things you said to me. Do you remember

[*Page 12*]

that you [wrote *corrected*] me that suffering never came when there was no chance of its doing any good? — I had quite a 'gift of preaching' yesterday, & I really think that I did a very unhappy person whom I happened to fall in with, some good.

I shall be glad to get back to my hills again. These prairies are like reading the same page of a story book over and over. It seems as if the world I have been brought up in was all cleared away. Here is another long letter after all. I wish they did not seem so long. People can talk by the hour, but a dozen written pages are a great bore to most people — Not to me! and I am not reflecting upon even that dear girl who once wrote me somewhere near forty! I was 'sort of' moralizing!

Yours sincerely S.O.J.

Notes

1872: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, cancelled in Green Bay, WI, on 15 November.

The Infinite and the Finite … book of Essays: *The Infinite and the Finite* (1872), *Essays*, first series (1845) and second series (1866) and third series (1868).

Oneida settlement: The Oneida Native American community of Duck Creek remains today about 12 miles west of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Jewett visited relatives in Green Bay in the fall of 1872. See her story, "Tame Indians" (1875).

Grace Church in New York: Wikipedia says: "Grace Church is a historic parish church in Manhattan, New York City which is part of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. The church is located at 800-804 Broadway, at the corner of East 10th Street.... The church ... is a French Gothic Revival masterpiece designed by James Renwick, Jr."

doctrine: In the King James Bible, John 7:17 reads: "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

Kate Birckhead: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Jewett Eastman

Sherman House — Chicago

18 Dec. 1872

Dear Carrie

I got up earlier than common this morning and was nearly dressed when the boy came to wake me, so I think I will write you until the others are ready for breakfast. I am in a great hurry to get a letter from you telling me about your Boston visit. I received Mary's* [yesterday *corrected*] and I enjoyed it so much. I am so sorry Ella* is ill. I had not heard from her but I thought [*deletion*] that after ~~the~~ she had had no letter from me after my first one & perhaps that might account. Did Grace*

[*Page 2*]

seem to mind because I have written her so little? I really do not have much time and if there is any time, I like to write home. You see I have not left yet. Mr. Furber* said yesterday when he came home that he really had not had a chance to go & get my tickets. Miss F. goes home to-night at 8, and I shall start at five. If I cannot go to-night I think I shall go [to *corrected*] Wis. for I should get into New York Saturday and I don't like that for aside from any detention & my getting there at an unseasonable hour I very likely should not get my trunk

[*Page 3*]

until Monday. Night before last [we *corrected*] went to the theater to see The Lady of Lyons* which I have read but never saw played before. The theatre is such a beauty, and this remark reminds me of a compliment I had for you yesterday from Mrs. Furber. She said that you were the handsomest girl at her wedding; that she looked up and saw you & asked Will who that lovely [girl *corrected*] was & then you came up and spoke to her — Every body was wondering [whom *so written*] you were & asking — So now you owe one to Piffy —* I read what you said about your cards

[*Page 4*]

to them in Cincinnati & Uncle John in particular was highly amused. You know you said there were enough to last you always unless you went gadding as often & stayed as long as I do! I did laugh so when Mary told me that she & Mrs. Burleigh* were going to the North Ch. fair! So John Micajah* has been has he? Don't you think the day I left Cincinnati I had been out all day, first over to the Bethel fair & kiting round generally — with Madam Hunt & then out to Walnut Hills with H. Burt.* [*Unrecognized word*] you think when

[*Page 5*]

I got in town I discovered that my tickets back to Chic. were for the half past six train instead of the eight, & my eyes! didn't I go for Covington! When I reached the house I looked into the hall & a gentleman sat there with his back to me whom I took for Papa Bates & consequently knocked on the glass. Whom do you suppose it was but Dr. Freeman!* And Piffy never knew him at first which was heart-rendering as Maggie says* — I told him the state of mind I was in & what a snip of time I had to get ready — & so he went away very [plisant *?*] but evidently disappointed! ~~Uncle J~~ Mr. Bates

[*Page 6*]

went over to the Gazette office with me & aunt Sarah* was there. You don't know how pleasant she has been. I was going up there to dine if my train had gone later — Uncle John went down to the station with me & seemed so sorry to have me leave — They are delighted with your liking the presents. He told me to tell Father he mustn't clear out that pipe with anything sharp as he would any other kind for he would poke a hole right through it. He had that fate himself —

These last two days Mrs. Furber and I have been enjoying

[*Page 7*]

ourselves together particularly. We really have seen almost nothing of each other — for I was skylarking round with the girls at Green Bay & out half my time. I wish I had been with her while she was sick for she says she was so forlorn — I am so sorry you were frightened about that railway accident. I dislike the air here in Chicago very much and there is a queer dust* blowing all the time { — } I think it is partly ashes or something of that kind. It is a most disagreeable city to walk in at present for you have to climb over blocks of stone & piles of mortar and there are

[*Page 8*]

several alarming derricks to go under with big stones dangling about over your head, or else a man goes before you with a hod of brick [tipped *corrected*] backward as if they would all slide down on your feet in a minute!

I must stop writing now — I hope I shall have a letter today before I go away. You both write me such nice letters. You don't know how shocked I was to hear Lizzie Trafton* is dead. I had not the slightest idea she was so ill as that. I wonder if it would be considered polite if I wrote Mrs. T. a note? Tell me when you write. Give my love to Cousin Charlotte* and ever so much to Mrs. Doe. Kate Burt* & Carrie Bates are great friends & I was going to see her that next day. Did I tell you that I was

[*Up the left margin of page 8*]

asked to Mrs. Pitt Burts to dine that day & Kate & I were to spend the night with Cicely. Wouldn't it have been fun! They were so disappointed.

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

We were going to the Sibley's as well as the Bates's — but though I didn't have time to call on the Sibleys I had the good luck to meet Mrs. Sibley

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

& Miss Hastings* in the street one day when I had on my good [clothes *corrected*] Mary! Piffy was considered very genteel of a girl!

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 7*]

I am glad to hear Hannah is better { — } give her my love & tell her so. I am not going to forget the "Swede Story booths{.}"

With ever so much love to you all

your aff sister

Piffy

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Please send me one of your cards.

Notes

Mary's: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Grace: Grace Gordon. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Furber: The Henry Furber, Sr. family of Green Bay, WI. See Cynthia Irwin Furber in Key to Correspondents. Identifying some family members mentioned here is problematic. When Henry Furber, Sr., married, in about 1862, Carrie would have been about 7 years old, and Furber's son William, of course, was not yet born. Therefore, the Mrs. Furber who complimented Carrie Jewett cannot be Mrs. Henry Furber or Furber's mother. The Miss Furber whose departure is anticipated also is not yet known.

The Lady of Lyons: *The Lady of Lyons; or, Love and Pride* is an 1838 romantic melodrama by British author and playwright, Edward Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873). Wikipedia.

Piffy: A Jewett nickname.

Uncle John: From Jewett's Cincinnati family. Richard Cary notes that "John Taylor Perry was another of Miss Jewett's maternal uncles. After twenty-five years as editor and part owner of the Cincinnati *Gazette,* he returned to his birthplace, Exeter, New Hampshire, where he resided until his death." His wife was Jewett's Aunt Sarah.

Madam Hunt ... H. Burt: Madam Hunt is Margaretta (Maggie) Baker Hunt. Key to Correspondents. For H. Burt, see the note on Kate Burt.

Bates: Papa Bates, Cassie and their family have not yet been identified.

Dr. Freeman: A Cincinnati physician. Nothing else has yet been learned about him. He is mentioned in Jewett's 1869 Diary.

Maggie: It is not clear whether this is the same person as Margaretta (Maggie) Baker Hunt, mentioned above.

queer dust: Jewett's descriptions of Chicago reflect the city's recovery from the Great Chicago Fire of October 1871.

Lizzie Trafton: Lizzie Trafton has not yet been identified. However, Frances F. Seaward Trafton of Kittery Point, ME, died on 1 December 1872.

Cousin Charlotte ...Mrs. Doe. Richard Cary in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* identifies Cousin Charlotte as Charlotte Tilton Cross, second wife of Elisha Hanson Jewett (1816-1883), first cousin to Jewett's father.

Mrs Doe is Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents.

Kate Burt: Kate Burt is from the family of a Jewett favorite, Cecily Burt Sibley (1844-1932). Cicely Burt married James H. Sibley on 22 December 1869. Her parents were Andrew Gano Burt (1810-1874) and Anne Green Thompson (1818-). Of Cicely's family, *Descendants of Henry Burt*, p. 109, says: "Mr. Burt was a man of a cultivated taste, fond of literature, a collector of paintings, fond of his garden, a strong character, quiet, gentlemanly, widely known and appreciated, a friend of Henry Clay. Mrs. Burt was from London, Eng. ... James H. Sibley of Cincinnati, husband of Cicely, was born Aug. 17, 1841; their children : Henrietta, b. Aug. 20,1871 ; James Whitelaw, b. Dec. 27, 1873."

Cicely had two older brothers and two younger sisters: Pitts H (b. 1837), Andrew Sheridan (b. 1839), Kate (b. 1846) and Henrietta (b. 1850). Andrew Burt became a Union infantry officer during the Civil War and after was a Brevet Major in the "Indian Wars" in Wyoming (p. 189). Major Burt married Elizabeth Johnston Reynolds in 1862. Their children in 1869 were Andrew (b. 1863) and Edith (b. 1867).

Miss Hastings: Miss Hastings probably was Mary / Molly Hastings of Cincinnati. Little has yet been learned about her.

Hannah: Probably Hannah Driscoll. Key to Correspondents.

"Swede Story booths" have not been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743.1 Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, Box 4

1873

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

Brooklyn 2 Jan. 1873

Dear Prof. Parsons

I wished to write you yesterday, but New Year day in these parts one does not seem to have much leisure, and I could not find time for

even this small note. I wish to send you my wishes

[*Page 2*]

for a happy New Year, and there are very few persons in the world to whom I say it more earnestly for you gave me so much last year and I shall be so much better in the year to come, because I have known you.

I thought when I left home

[*Page 3*]

that I should be back again by this time but there is little prospect at present, for I go to Philadelphia from here, and then back to New York and then to Newport, so the campaign seems to extend its limits! I have a great deal to tell you and part of it — at any rate — I am sure you will be

[*Page 4*]

glad to hear. I wish you the best of all your years and the happiest. — "all good things that are good for you!" and thanking you again for all you have done for me

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

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New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

[*17 April 1873*]

Dear Prof. Parsons.

I should like so much to know if you are well — and if you have forgotten me! I think of you so often.

I have been home only two weeks after a jolly long holiday. I was West travelling with some friends in the autumn, and then I spent the winter in Philadelphia and New York & Brooklyn. I was in Boston just a few days

[*Page 2*]

but it was impossible for me to go to Cambridge which I should like so much to have done. I was ignominiously 'run over' on Broadway and I have been feeling the effects of my fall. It was the narrowest escape from being killed. I am not afraid of dying at all, but it would have been so hard for them here at home when they had not seen me for so long and expected me home soon — I hope to begin my writing very soon, but first I am going away for a little change!

[*Page 3*]

Grandpapa lays siege to me for a small visit —

Six months is a long time to be away from one's home is not it? I hope I have not wasted all the time and I do [not *corrected*] think I have. I have ever so many new friends, indeed I am quite bewildered with them sometimes when I get thinking; for I used to have only one, and perhaps she lasted, and perhaps she didn't! — You never will know how much good you did me last summer. For one thing I have understood better ever since what I am doing — I think I have lived a great deal more earnestly and have

[*Page 4*]

gained more good things myself [and *corrected*] done more for other people. And before I went to the sea-shore I knew your reputation and your name, and I should have thought it so strange, if anyone could have told me what you were going to do for me.[*deletion*] I like to think about it so much. I know I never shall forget those days — and those moonlight nights and the high-tide and the Sunday I wished to go sailing and did not! Will you please remember me to Mrs. [Parson's *so it appears*] & Miss Sabra* and believe that I am always your sincere & grateful

Sarah O. Jewett —

South Berwick

17 Apr. 1873 ——

Notes

Miss Sabra: Mary Sabra Parsons. See Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

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Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

[*14 May 1873*]

Dear Prof. Parsons

I beg your pardon for not acknowledging the magazine* before. I read your essay with the greatest pleasure and learned a great deal from it. I read the other articles also, but I like what you say about the New Church so much better than what other people say! I am reading your book 'The Infinite and the Finite'* over again. I am just beginning to read again, though I am not well yet, and find my head troubles me a great deal. It has prevented my writing either

[*Page 2*]

letters or stories. I shall take you at your word and send you my stories. I shall like doing so very much — but I do not flatter myself that the information you will gain will be very great! I was so glad to have your letter. I do not think you know how much pleasure you have given me since last August.

I should like so much to see you but I am afraid I shall not until fall, unless you are near here this summer as you were last. I wish

[*Page 3*]

you would come to Berwick & if you go East it would not be out of your way. Father had by no means forgotten you and if he were here I know he would send you a message in return for yours. He & my sister Mary have gone down to the sea this afternoon & I think will not get back until late.

I think so often of questions I should like to ask you. You seem to know the answers to all my puzzles! It seems as if I had more "puzzles" than any girl I know, and I [can't *corrected*]

[*Page 4*]

tell whether I am glad or sorry. My world seems at present very much tangled up! I grow cowardly sometimes and wish I never had been taught my letters! Please give my love to Miss Sabra.*

Yours most gratefully

Sarah O. Jewett.

South Berwick

14 May 1873

Notes

the magazine: This reference to a magazine containing an essay by Parsons from around May 1873 remains uncertain. He was a regular contributor to the *New Church Magazine*, and it seems quite likely that he has sent her a number that includes one of his pieces. These include two that probably appeared by the time Jewett wrote this letter:

"Heaven and Hell" (April 1873), pp. 305-315.

"The Rules of Convention" (May 1873), pp. 401-406.

The April number seems more likely, in the light of Jewett's failure to acknowledge it in an earlier letter.

'The Infinite and the Finite': Parsons' book was published by Roberts Brothers, Boston, in 1872.

Miss Sabra: Mary Sabra Parsons. See Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

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New transcription and notes.

Helen Gilman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Portland May 24 '73

My dear Sarah,

Yrs. of the 21— is before me. Thanks for it. I am so glad to know you & Mary* are coming to me as I desired. Please tell Mary to have her goods & chattels, pardon me, I mean "traps" sent ^or brought by her^ to my address, unless they are too bulky. Your good father, if you do not, will remember the dimensions of our office & hall, & should they not be sufficient — I will have them ^(the goods)^ [permuted *?*] to the attic — which we consider <u>heavenly</u> — On Monday I think they ought to come as Tuesday aft. ^at 2 o'clock^ the Fair* begins — Please arrange for yourselves when you had better come for I will be ready for you at any time. — I

am sorry not to be able to extend my hospitality to Mrs. Burleigh* but some of my Augusta friends are to be with me — but I will be most happy to extend to her the freedom of the house & she may

[*Page 2*]

feel at liberty to come & go as she pleases — I believe some instructions are to be published which accounts for my not being better posted on the questions you ask. Of my own accord I take the liberty to say bring the goods to my house, for it will make it easier for you to have them more under your immediate control than if sent to "Headquarters" under the Falmouth.* Please secure fast your prices to the articles & let us have a schedule — our Com. prefer that you fix your prices, & be subject to our revision only as a price may be too high or low. I have been so busy since my return with business details that I learn but little of outside matters connected with the Fair — All are hopeful & I trust it will prove a pecuniary success — I have been to Headquarters but twice but a table is assigned to you I hear. It is so, is it not? If I can answer any other questions please ask without hesitation.

Excuse my haste as the breakfast bell rings.

Love for you all from Aunt Helen.

Notes

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Fair: Probably, this is the Maine General Hospital Fair, which took place 7-19 June 1873 in Portland, ME. During the fair, a daily newspaper appeared, *The Tonic*, in which Jewett published three essays: "Birds' Nests," "Doctors and Patients," and "Protoplasm and House-Cleaning."

Mrs. Burleigh: Mrs. Burleigh may be Matilda Burleigh, Mrs. John Holmes Burleigh (1822-1877), a South Berwick neighbor, the widow of a mill owner and Maine congressman.

Falmouth: This presumably was the then quite new Falmouth Hotel (John Bundy Brown, 1868) in Portland, ME.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Helen Gilman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Portland June 3d [*1873*]*

My dear Sarah,

What a noiseless man your Father is & how shyly he passed out from this house the other morning — I think he must have decamped through window, for I was up before five & intended to have my ears open to the slightest sounds, & to present myself before him. When he departed. The only atonement he can make is to give us the whole of next week — if not for the Med. Assoc.,* it must be for the Fair,* & I write this [message *?*] to say that Aunt Caroline* intends to go to her new boarding place the last of this week. It is very near to us & will I trust prove a pleasant abode for her, from [*unrecognized word*]

[*Page 2*]

soul — vacating her room gives me opportunity to insist on your whole family coming, so pack up on Monday & present yourselves at 41 [Pine *?*] St.* without fail. Dr. [Small *?*]* says it wont be a Med. Convention without yr father & so say I, & he must come sartin' — Truly we want to see you all, & need I say more. Miss [Strong *?* Doring *?*]* is to call in a few moments, for what I cant divine — Breakfast is on the table & all things considered I am in haste —

Abundant love for you

& all your family

from Aunt Helen —

Notes

1873: See note below on the Maine General Hospital Fair.

Med. Assoc. The Maine Medical Association met in Portland during the General Hospital Fair, 10-12 June 1873. See *Transactions of the Maine Medical Association*, Volume 4, p. 356. Dr. T. H. Jewett served on the Publishing Committee.

Fair: The Maine General Hospital Fair, which took place 7-19 June 1873 in Portland, ME. During the fair, a daily newspaper appeared, *The Tonic*, in which Jewett published three essays: "Birds' Nests," "Doctors and Patients," and "Protoplasm and House-Cleaning."

Aunt Caroline: This person has not been identified. She may be Caroline Bowman Freeland (1802-1878), mother of Annie Freeland Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

41 Pine St: Though this transcription is uncertain, 41 Pine Street remains a Portland, ME residential address.

Dr. Small: This transcription is uncertain. Dr. Horatio Nelson Small (1840-1886) of Portland, ME attended the 1873 Maine Medical Association Meeting. However there were other physicians named Small at the meeting, from various places in Maine. Horatio Small was Instructor of Obstetrics at the Portland School for Medical Instruction, sharing this specialty with Jewett's father, who served on the Obstetrics faculty at Bowdoin. See *Transactions of the Maine Medical Association* v. 9, pp. 315-7.

Strong ? Doring ? : The transcription is uncertain, and this person has not been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Annie Freeland Jewett* to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Unrecognized address, possibly*:

107 Hackly St.]*

June 15th [*1873*]*

My dear Sarah,

The days have glided by especially since your pleasant letter came. But not for one day, or hour has my conscience stopped accusing me of laziness & ingratitude to my friend.

And more than all not to you only but to Mary,* whose letters I can't afford to do without. Will you both accept this as a peace-offering & play I have not been bad and begin all over again. [*so punctuated*] Freeland* has gone on wings of [a bird *?*] to ask Aunt Lottie if Laura* can stay to tea. Previously he had been enjoying himself in Prospect Park.* We have

[*Page 2*]

had some lovely days —- bright and not too warm. Today the sky is overcast, and rain threatens. Mr. Beecher* preached on Sunday last for Mr. Murray* of Boston. Did you see the account of the [*unrecognized word*] and disgraceful (I call it) behavior of [yr Bostonians! *?*] However they really are not human. The Beechers have been visiting Mrs. Claflin* in Newtonville. Had a splendid time. Have you seen Miss Halliburton* recently? A few days since I encountered one of the maiden sisters ^of Gen. Dodge^* in a store. She was talking to a friend and I overheard the remark that they were alarmed about her brother, as he had [*unrecognized word*] blood; he could walk

[*Page 3*]

with a cane she said. Mrs. Ellis* is at [Newton *?*] — she went in April. Mr. Ellis is at [father's *?*] and spends Sundays at home every other week. We had a pudding today, which your cousin Freeland [*deleted letters*] [*unrecognized word*] [needed our horse power to eat — he may not fear/far from light *?*]* Yesterday was the annual picnic of the Plymouth Sunday School.* it [*so punctuated*] was satisfactory{.} I didn't go. Have you seen a story in Littell* — 'The Prescotts of Pamphillon' by the author of Dorothy Fox.[*so punctuated*]* I like it much. [*Miss ?*] Proctor had a fine time in Boston. She had all the celebrities at her feet so to speak. Whittier spent two weeks at the [Claflin's *?*] during her stay there. Rose Terry* was there —

[*Page 4*]

Lucy Larcom* — and several others that I have forgotten. How are all Berwick — or rather how is. The good mother, father, Carrie & Mary [*unrecognized words*]. Give my love to them, and say that a few weeks more will see me in the midst of you, I hope. Dr. [Haslitt *?*]* still lives although he does not call on me. Cousin Charlie* sees him often. Is my picture progressing! [*so punctuated*] Then will he escape from that [things *?*] I do assure you.* Whether you like this paper or not — it is fine to write upon — so take my word for it — We had a sermon this morning on the Fatherhood of God, the text being our Father which art in Heaven{.} I wish you could have heard

[*In top margin of page 1, down from the left*]

it as it was one of the strong sermons Mr. Beecher [*two unrecognized words*] preached.

Love again to all{.} Yours affectionately

Annie

Notes

Annie Freeland Jewett: Most of the details of this letter support the conclusion that Mrs. Jewett is the author of this letter, but this remains somewhat uncertain. Key to Correspondents.

107 Hackly St.: This transcription is uncertain. The envelope is post-marked in New York, probably Brooklyn. There apparently is not a Hackley or Hackly Street in Brooklyn or the rest of New York City.

1873 : This year is based upon the writer indicating that she is enjoying the serial publication of *The Prescotts of Pamphillon.* See note below.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Freeland: Probably this is Freeland Jewett (1865-1937), Mrs. Jewett's son.

Aunt Lottie ... Laura: These persons have not yet been identified. Presumably, they are Mrs. Jewett's relatives.

Prospect Park: A public park in Brooklyn, NY., designed by Frederick Law Olmstead.

Mr. Beecher ... Mr. Murray: Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) was an American Congregationalist clergyman, abolitionist, and social reformer. Mr. Murray *may* be William Henry Harrison Murray (1840–1904), "an American clergyman and author of an influential series of articles and books which popularized the Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York." He served as pastor of the Park Street Church in Boston, 1868-1874.

disgraceful ... [*the Bostonians*]: This transcription is uncertain, adding to the difficulty of knowing to what issue Mrs. Jewett refers. During 1873, a major issue in the Boston area was debate over Boston's attempted annexation of suburban Brookline. Having just completed a term as Governor of Massachusetts, William Claflin likely would have been deeply involved in this debate. It is possible, as well, that Mrs. Jewett refers to persistent rumors about the sexual affairs of Henry Ward Beecher, which became a public scandal in 1875. See note below on Edna Dean Proctor.

Mrs. Claflin in Newtonville: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Halliburton: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

*one of the maiden sisters ^of Gen. Dodge^*: This transcription is uncertain, and these persons remain unknown. Two Union Civil War generals named "Dodge" could have been in New York in 1873. Charles Cleveland Dodge (1841-1910), a businessman, became president of the Boston and Cape Cod Canal Company. However, he had no known sisters. Grenville Mellen Dodge (1831-1916) became a businessman and a Republican politician, representing Iowa after the war. His business took him regularly to New York, where he resided after 1880. He had only one known sister, Julia Mary Dodge (1843-1924), and she married James Bradley Beard (1842-1926) in 1868.

Mrs. Ellis ... Mr. Ellis is at [*father's ?*]: Charles Warren Ellis and Emma Harding Claflin, step-daughter of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. The transcription of "father's" is uncertain, and this person's identity is uncertain. Mrs. Jewett's father was James Freeland. Key to Correspondents.

from light: Transcription of this sentence is highly uncertain and its meaning obscure.

Plymouth Sunday School: Probably Mrs. Jewett refers to the Plymouth Church (Congregational) of Brooklyn, NY, established in 1847.

story in Littell — 'The Prescotts of Pamphillon' by the author of Dorothy Fox: Mrs. Louisa Parr (c. 1846-1903) was a British novelist. The serialization of this novel opened in *Littell's Living Age* 117 (April 1873), p. 114.

Proctor: This may be Edna Dean Proctor (1827-1923) an American poet with Brooklyn connections. She worked with Henry Ward Beecher on *Life Thoughts* (1858), a collection of excerpts from his sermons. Wikipedia says that Beecher and Proctor had a sexual relationship for at least a year around the time they were working on this book.

Whittier ... Rose Terry: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. Rose Terry (Cooke) (1827-1892) was an American author and poet. She married Rollin H. Cooke in 1873.

Lucy Larcom: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was an American author and poet.

Carrie: Carrie Jewett (Eastman). Key to Correspondents.

Haslitt: This transcription is uncertain, and the person remains unknown.

Cousin Charlie: This may be Jewett's cousin, Charles Ashburton Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

assure you: Transcription of these sentences is highly uncertain and their meaning obscure.

Fatherhood of God ...our Father which art in Heaven: Beecher evidently preaches on the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, using as his text, the "Lord's Prayer," Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. Mrs. Jewett may refer to his sermon entitled "The Fatherhood of God," in *The Sermons of Henry Ward Beecher in Plymouth Church*, v. 1, (1869) p. 411. If he delivered this sermon again in 1873, then it would be a repetition or revision.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Elisha Scudder

[*1 July 1873*]

My dear Mr. Scudder —

You have always been so kind to me that I cannot help thinking of you as one of my friends, and I have a question to ask which I am sure you will be able to answer — so I ask it without making elaborate apologies — Will you tell me about keeping the copyright of my stories? Some one asked me not long ago if I would like to have them published in book form, and, though I did not care to tell him 'yes', it has suggested to me that perhaps I might like to have some one

[*Page 2*]

else take them one of these days. And I know there is something about a thing's being 'copyrighted' or not, which may hinder their being used over again — At any rate, I should like to know if there is anything for me to do ^about it^. I have been writing for the Independent* since I saw you. Not very much however, for I don't think I need the practice of writing, so much as I need study, and care in other ways. I think you advised me long ago not to write too much — or to grow careless? I am getting quite ambitious and really feel that writing is my work — my business perhaps; and it is so much

[*Page 3*]

better than making a mere amusement of it as I used — I sent you some sketches* I gave a paper published at our Hospital Fair in Portland, not long ago — I am really trying to be very much in earnest and to do the best I can. & I know you will wish me 'good luck.' I have had nothing to complain of, for the editors have never proved to be dragons, and I even find I have achieved a small reputation already. I am glad to have something to do in the world and something which may prove very helpful and useful if I care to make it so, which

[*Page 4*]

I certainly do. But I am disposed to long-windedness! If you will tell me with the least possible trouble to yourself how I can have my stories copyrighted, or 'keep the copyright' I believe one should say — or if it is not necessary, I shall thank you exceedingly, both for that and for your other kindnesses.

Yrs very sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett —

South Berwick

1 July 1873

Notes

Independent: Richard Cary, who included this letter in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters,* notes that "between September 14, 1871, and May 8, 1873, Miss Jewett contributed nine pieces to the *Independent* (see Weber & Weber, *Bibliography,* 30-31)."

sketches: Cary also names Jewett's 1873 hospital fair sketches in *The Tonic* (Portland, Maine): "Birds' Nests," June 11, page 3; "Doctors and Patients," June 12, page 3; "Protoplasm and House-Cleaning," June 17, page 3.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Elisha Scudder

South Berwick

13 July 1873

My dear Mr. Scudder

In the first place — I think this letter will need no answer. Does not this announcement help you to begin ^to^ read~~ing~~ it with a pleasanter feeling? The truth is I wish to talk to you a little about my writing. I am more than glad to have you criticise me. I know I must need it very much and I realize the disadvantage of never hearing anything about my stories except from my friends, who do not write themselves, & are

[*Page 2*]

not unexceptionable authorities upon any strictly literary question. I do know several literary people quite well, but whenever they read anything of mine I know that they look down from their pinnacles in a [benignant *corrected*] way & think it very well done 'for her' as the country people say. And all this is not what I want. Then it is a disadvantage that I should have been so successful in getting my nonsense printed! I am so glad to have you show me where I fail, for I wish to gain as fast as possible and I must know definitely what to do. But Mr. Scudder, I think

[*Page 3*]

my chief fault is my being too young and knowing so little! Those sketches I sent you were carefully written. Of course they were experiments and I could perhaps have made them better if they could have been longer. Those first stories of mine were written with as little thought and care as one could possibly give & write them at all. Lately I have chosen my words and revised as well as I knew how; though I always write impulsively — very fast and without much plan. And, strange to say this same fault shows itself in my painting, for the more I worked over pictures the stiffer and more hopeless they grew. I have one or two little

[*Page 4*]

marine views I scratched [off *corrected*] to use up paint and they are bright and real and have an individuality — just as the "Cannon Dresses" did. That is the dearest & best thing I have ever written. The Shore House, which Mr. Howells* has, reminds me of it and comes next. I wrote it in the same way & I think it has the same reality. I believe the only thing ~~told me~~ ^he found fault with^ was that I did not make more of it — 'The characters were good enough ^for me^ to say a great deal more of them'. But I don't believe I could write a long story as he suggested, & you advise me in this last letter — In the first

[*Page 5*]

place, I have no dramatic talent. The story would have no plot. I should have to fill it out with descriptions of character and meditations — It seems to me I can furnish the theatre, & show you the actors, & the scenery, & the audience, but there never is any play! I could write you entertaining letters perhaps, from some desirable house where I was in most charming company but I couldn't make a story about it. I seem to get very much bewildered when I try to make these come in for

[*Page 6*]

secondary parts. And what shall be done with such a girl? For I wish to keep on writing, & to do the very best I can. It is rather discouraging to find I [lose *corrected*] my best manner by [studying *corrected*] hard and growing older and wiser! Copying one's self has usually proved disastrous. Shall not I let myself alone and not try definitely for this trick of speech or that — & hope that I shall grow into a sufficient respectability as the years go on? I do not know how much real talent I have as yet — how much there is in me to be relied upon as original &

[*Page 7*]

effective in writing. I am certain I could not write one of the usual magazine stories. If the editors will take the sketchy kind and people like to read them, is not it as well to do that and do it successfully as to make hopeless efforts to achieve something in another line which runs much higher? You know the spirit in which I say this, for you know my writing has until very lately been done merely for the pleasure of it. It is not a bread & butter affair with me, though such a spendthrift as I could not fail to be glad of money, which has in most instances been lightly earned. I don't wish to ignore

[*Page 8*]

such a gift as this, God has given me. I have not the slightest conceit ~~about~~ on account of it — indeed, I believe it frightens me more than it pleases me. Now it has been a great satisfaction to have said all this to you. Please look upon it as a slight tribute to your critical merits which no one can appreciate more heartily than I — and remember that I told you in the beginning there would be no questions which would need answering. Thank you for telling me of your engagement, though I had heard of it long ago from some Boston friend & I had half a mind to speak of it when I was writing you — I am very glad now to send you my best wishes. I shall like exceedingly

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

to see Miss Owen,* and I congratulate you both with all

[*Up the left margin of page 7*]

all my heart — Yours most sincerely Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

'Cannon Dresses' ... The Shore House ... Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells; Key to Correspondents. Jewett's "The Girl With the Cannon Dresses" appeared in *Riverside Magazine* 4 (August 1870), 354-360. "The Shore House" was published in the *Atlantic Monthly* 32 (September 1873), 358-368 and became part of *Deephaven* (1877).

Owen: Richard Cary, who produced a transcription of this letter for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*, identified Grace Owen (1845-1926) of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who married Scudder on 30 October 1873.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick 14 Sept. 1873

Dear Prof. Parsons.

I don't know why I am writing you unless it is that I remember you so often and I am a little afraid you will forget there is such a girl in the world as I! — I heard in a roundabout way that you and your family were at Rye Beach during August. I was there myself the very last of July and I was very cross to find I had missed seeing you. I meant to go over to see you but I could not.

I have had a strange sort of summer. Father was very ill indeed for weeks,* & we were afraid at first that he would die, and then, that he would be blind. He is not quite well yet but he only needs

[*Page 2*]

time and rest — but he never can be prevailed upon to take much of that. I wish I were like him. That was an awful time to me, when he was so ill. I think I never knew before what real sorrow is — I used to think of you so often; I suppose it was because I [am *corrected*] always sure of your sympathy and knew you would be so sorry then. I did not feel like myself for a long time afterward, and added to this, I never have gotten over the effects of that accident in New York in the Spring. I was at Wells Beach three weeks not long ago and that did me a great deal of good. I think I was growing stronger and happier all the time and I found some pleasant new people to know, and one real friend. I used to wish

[*Page 3*]

for you a great deal and so many things reminded me of last summer. I used to sit in the hall window by myself and round the corner of the house on the piazza, & think about what you used to say.

I wonder if you saw "The Shore House"* in the September Atlantic? I would have sent it to you but it came out while I was there and I had no way of getting it. "Deephaven" is all perfectly real to me. I hope you liked it a little. I am very proud because I had some very pleasant things said about it, and even one kind little 'puff' from "The Nation". Wasn't that nice? —

I want to get on faster with my writing but I have been able to do so little this summer. I am

[*Page 4*]

wishing more and more to be useful in the world — to be learning and working. I know I ought to do a great deal and I grow so sorry and [discontented *corrected*] when I find myself so useless, and continual carelessness and thoughtlessness pulling me back. The days come and go, and I tell myself over and over again the same story of coming short of the mark. But isn't it something that I am sorry, that I mean to do better? I am 'getting on' and growing a little and I [thank *corrected*] God for it. I have done good [in *corrected*] one way — I sincerely believe I have helped some of my friends, and I know you will be glad of that. I think you would tell me too, that it is all right that I am so

[*Page 5*]

dissatisfied — that it is the only way to make me climb higher.

Do you remember giving me some little books last summer at Wells? I told you at first I could not understand many of them — the extracts from Swedenborg particularly. Do you know that every time I take them they seem easier and easier, and so I find that I went to work the wrong way! I could not understand them because I was not ready { — } I had not <u>lived</u> enough, but every time they make something clearer that I did not see aright before. There is one with an extract about the Atonement* that was a godsend

[*Page 6*]

to me. I read the other books — your own books — and there is always something I did not see before, which helps me.

I am growing very ambitious about my writing, but I care most of all to be a pleasure and a help to people by means of it. I wish to be so good and true myself — that myself in my stories will be sympathetic; I hope they may never fail to be interesting and helpful and strong [*deletion*], because there is no life or reality running through, and my own heart cold and selfish. I wish I never

[*Page 7*]

could finish a story without putting at least some little word that will show people how to be happier and grow better. There is one thing I am always glad to think of — that if I am wishing to be good; no matter how much I am hindered, I shall surely find some chances when I can be what I wish. I can't tell you how much I have always thought of one thing you wrote of in The Infinite in the Finite* = that in every event there is a chance for us to learn God's lesson and find good, or a chance for us to lose all this. I see it now

[*Page 8*]

so very often for myself. Ah! you never will know how much ~~you~~ you have taught me, and done for me. I do not know it all myself yet.

I have written much more than I intended, but I always find so much to say to you. I think I would rather see you than anyone I can think of. I hope to be in Boston for a day or two late next month and then I will go to Cambridge. I was so glad to hear something about you — It was merely that you were in Rye, but I did not know even if you were well before. Please give my love to Mrs. Parsons and Miss Sabra.*

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

Father was very ill: Paula Blanchard, *Sarah Orne Jewett*, mentions Theodore Jewett's life-threatening illness in 1873 (p. 120). See also Elizabeth Silverthorne, *Sarah Orne Jewett* (p. 64).

The Shore House: Jewett's "The Shore House" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (September 1873). *The Nation* of 28 August 1873 wrote: "Very agreeable reading will be found in Miss S. O. Jewett's 'Shore-House,' which is more like talk than reading" (p. 149).

the Atonement: The Christian doctrine that the death of Christ atoned for the original sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, told in the book of Genesis in the *Bible*. By this means, God redeemed humanity from "the fall" that separated humanity from God.

'The Infinite and the Finite': Parsons' book was published by Roberts Brothers, Boston, in 1872.

Miss Sabra: Mary Sabra Parsons. See Theophilus Parsons in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave.

New transcription and notes.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cambridge — Sept. 18, 1873

My dear Miss Jewett,

You begin your letter with confessing that you did not know why you wrote to me. Perhaps I can tell you. It was because you knew I should be very glad to receive the letter. We passed the month of August at Rye Beach. Soon after I was there, I learned from Miss Hilliard* that you had been there. I came as near being vexed, as I permit myself to be with a fact which is not my fault, — that I had not been a little earlier or you a little later. But I learned also that you were coming there again; nor did I wholly lose the hope of seeing you, until ~~you~~ I left the beach. Now you half promise that you will be in Boston the last of October. You make long visits elsewhere. Must your visit at Boston be only a flying call? You say you will come out to Cambridge. We shall all be glad to see you, but could you not draft me a line, as soon as your plans are determined upon, telling me at what time and what place I may find you in Boston?

I have not yet read the Shore House.* I have but little time to give to our periodicals & they are very numerous, so I take none but the professional ones that I need. But shall get that

number of the Atlantic, at once, & read that story; and when we [*deleted word*] meet you may be sure I shall tell you just what ~~you~~ I think of it. The last story you sent me in the Independent* was a very pleasant story. One who began it would be sure to finish it. An editor would know this & ask for more. But a reader who looked over his paper to find the next story from your hand, would, by that time have forgotten all about the story he had read, except that he liked it. Is it not just so you read the pleasure giving literature of the day. What I mean is, that your stories lack — what it would now be impossible, perhaps, for you to put into them; and that is, positiveness, substance. You learn easily, think quickly, & write excellently. The time will come when you will never write without knowing that you are going to say something which will make your readers wiser & better, — unless they reject it, which is not your affair. And that thought or truth you will do your best to give access to the minds of your readers. Then you will rejoice when you feel that you have succeeded in clothing a valuable truth with a beauty that is at once attractive & transparent; — that wins reception for the truth & does not obscure or disguise it.

You say "You are growing very ambitious about your writing." Of course you are; & your success will feed your ambition. Is this right? It may be or it may not be. Ambition is the love & desire of honour. What is the honour that you seek for? John says,* "How can you believe who receive honour one of another, & seek out the honour that cometh from God only." I am not about to write a sermon on this text, but let me say in a word, what it means. If you believe that God doeth good always, & infinitely desires to do good, & does all the good that is done and does this by His instruments that He may bless them in doing the good, & strives always to enlarge & elevate their capacity for doing good, that He may honour them more & more, — then you will know what is meant by seeking the honour which cometh from Him. I hope that through eternity you will see more & more clearly that this is so, & what it all means.

But my sheet has come to an end, & I have not touched the many topics your letter suggests. Let me however express my sincere regret that your father has suffered* so much, & my pleasure that he has recovered, — and my hope, that your suffering, now & always, may be the blessing it must have been intended to be. The rest I will leave until we can talk "face to face."

Sincerely y's

Theophilus Parsons

Miss S. O. Jewett [*This appears in the lower left corner after the signature.*]

Notes

Miss Hilliard: Miss Hilliard remains unidentified. One remote possibility is Miss Laura Hilliard of a prominent Cleveland, OH family. Though, according to her diary, Jewett made at least one extended visit there in 1873, there is as yet no record that she met the Hilliard family. Laura was the youngest daughter of Richard Hilliard & Sarah Catherine Hayes (of Vermont), born before 1853, the year her mother died. She likely was close to Jewett in age. She was living in Cleveland in 1914, where two of her brothers had remained and were prominent in the community. See *The Pioneer Families of Cleveland* 1796-1840, Volume 1, pp. 278-9.

Shore House: Jewett's story, "The Shore House" appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September 1873.

last story you sent me in the Independent: As of the date of this letter, Jewett's most recent story from *The Independent* would have been "The Desert Islanders" in November of 1872, but she may have sent him any of six other stories that appeared there from 1871 to the present.

John says: In the King James Bible, John 5:44 reads: "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"

father has suffered: See Jewett's letter of 14 September 1873.

The ms. of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: bMS Am 1743 (174).

Editorial Rooms, *St. Nicholas* to Sarah Orne Jewett

22 September 1873

This is a one-page form letter addressed to Jewett, to accompany an enclosed check of $24 in payment for "The Water Dolly," as well as a receipt to be returned. Jewett's story appeared illustrated in *St. Nicholas* in December 1873.

This letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 192. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Editors of St. Nicholas to Sarah Orne Jewett

Office of St Nicholas

654 Broadway

Sept 23 / 73

Dear Miss Jewett:

Can you write us a short fairy story* in which shall occur a description of the imaginative cave shown in the accompanying engraving? We wish to use both ^MA + picture ^ in our second number, and would have to have the ms. very soon. A [discription *so spelled*] of the natural features of the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky might aid you

[*Page 2*]

in [discribing *so spelled*] our wonderful cave. The river is to ^be^ made [*deletion*] prominent [*deletion*] in the talk about the cave. We thought of calling the picture the "Wonderful River". Please let us know ^soon^ if you can undertake the story as we are quite pressed in regard to time.

Yours truly

Eds. St. Nicholas

Notes

story: Jewett did not publish such a story in *St Nicholas*. Her next story to appear there was "My Friend the Housekeeper" in September 1874. Whether she attempted the story is not yet known, but it is possible such an attempt is among her unpublished manuscripts.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item192. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Ellen Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

Newport

Oct [6th *? 1873*]*

My dear Sarah,

I don't know what you think of me for keeping silent so long, but I am sure that it will not be anything unkind. I began a letter to you a good while ago, but I did not feel like writing and did not finish it. I will not take up any room with apologies, of which we neither of us

[*Page 2*]

approve, but will "entrer tout de suite en matière."* It has been quite pleasant this summer talking foreign languages. I do wish that one had more frequent opportunities to practice them, for it is much more amusing than talking English all the time, and one can say some things much better than in one's mother tongue. A German cousin of ours has come out to pass the winter, and I have a fine chance to speak with

[*Page 3*]

her in German, altho' I speak it so much less well than she does English, that I am rather ashamed of myself. Newport certainly is a nice place in a society way, for one sees every variety of person here in the course of the summer. There has been a Miss Wellington* ^here^ whom I am very sorry not to have seen, for they says that she is one of the most promising reviewers. She wrote a criticism of George Eliot, which called forth a complimentary note from the authoress herself. I wonder if you know this

[*Page 4*]

Miss W! I believe she lives in Boston. I hope that you will be coming to town in Nov., when we shall be back there. You will have been quietly at home for so long by that time you will have to try your wings again, and they cannot take you in a better direction than Boston. I am hoping very much ^that^ Kate* will be there this winter, tho' I do not dare speak of it yet. Both she & her Mother are I think convinced that a winter here is very bad for her and Boston seems as easy a place to go to, as

[*Page 5*]

any other city. Would it not be nice to have her there and you would come and see her, would you not? I am sorry to say that Kate has not been very well this summer. She has had a great many of her old "queer" feelings, and has not been able to do much, or enjoy things properly. The weather however has been very favorable for her, so little heat. It is hard not to

feel discouraged sometimes, but still I feel that she must and will get better eventually.

[*Page 6*]

Our reading this summer has been very slight. We are just beginning De Tocqueville's letters* & I am much interested in every thing by that man, and am also reading his "America." We have been struggling all summer with the "Virginians"* which we have not yet quite finished. It is so very hard to read a book with a person when you are not in the house with them, and Kat's visits to me this summer have been very short. Has Prof. Parsons* written to you regularly? I hope that you will show me some more of his letters, they must be so interesting. I wish that you had been here last week to see the surf, it was so fine{.}

[*Up the left margin and then down the top margin of page 1*]

Have you had many glimpses of the sea this summer? I was at [*unrecognized word*] last week, and altho' I enjoyed my visit there extremely, I was so thankful to get back to my adored sea again.

Goodbye — Yrs affy

Ellen Mason

Notes

1873: The day in October is obscured by cross writing, but appears to be the 6th. The year is speculative, based on the reference to Alice Wellington receiving a compliment from George Eliot concerning a book review. The correspondence between Wellington and Eliot took place in early 1873, making this the earliest year when Eliot's opinion could have been known. As Wellington married in 1876, we can be fairly sure that this letter is from before that year.

matière: French — "get right to the substance."

Miss Wellington: Alice Wellington Rollins (1847-1897) was a Boston and New York author and reformer, who corresponded with the British novelist, George Eliot (1819-1880) in 1873. Wikipedia.

See *George Eliot's Life as Related in her Letters and Journals*, pp. 143-5. She married and left Boston in 1876. The review of Eliot to which Mason refers has not yet been identified.

Kate: Almost certainly this is Kate Birckhead. Key to Correspondents.

De Tocqueville's letters ... America: The French diplomat and historian, Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859) published *Democracy in America* (1835, 1840). A translation of *Memoir, Letters, and Remains of Alexis de Tocqueville* was published in Boston by Ticknor and Fields in 1862.

Virginians: Presumably this is William Makepeace Thackeray's historical novel of 1857-1859, which is set partly in 18th-century British colonial America in the years leading up to the revolution of 1776.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters, Transcription and notes by Terry Heller, Coe College, from a Columbia University Libraries microfilm copy of the manuscript.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Katherine de Costa Birckhead* Fragment

S.B. 12 Dec 1873

My dear Kate

I am writing at that secretary with the secret drawers which you find mentioned in the Shore House —* I have been over here nearly all day copying and I am oh! so tired. It is getting dark and there will not be time to finish this letter — but I have been thinking of you ever so much today and somehow I can't help writing. I hoped to go to Boston this

[*Page 2*]

week and to hear about you from Ellen* but I can't for I have ever so much writing to do and I don't wish to leave it and forget it and never finish it as would perhaps be the case — And besides both Mary & Carrie* are going away in a few days — and all things considered I think I had better wait until after New Years. I am writing or rather copying a story just now that I am almost sure you will like ever so much. It is a <u>good</u>

[*Page3*]

story* and I think it has done me good to write it even if nobody has any good from reading it —

[*unfinished and unsigned*]

Notes

Birckhead: Though it is in a Houghton folder cataloged as letters to Kate Douglas Wiggin, the intended recipient almost certainly was Birckhead. In 1873, Wiggin turned 17, and her family moved to Santa Barbara, CA. While her family resided for some time in Maine, and she went to school in Maryland and Massachusetts until she was 17, it is unlikely that she and Jewett met until much later. Jewett's known correspondence with Wiggin began in 1904.

On the other hand, in the 1860s and 70s Jewett was in correspondence on a first-name basis with Birckhead, one of her closest friends at the time.

Shore House: Jewett's short story, "The Shore House," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1873.

Ellen: Ellen Mason. Key to Correspondents.

Mary & Carrie: Jewett's sisters, Mary Rice Jewett and Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

story: Jewett published several stories during 1874, but only one for adult readers, "Miss Sydney's Flowers" in *The Independent* in July.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 278.

Ellen Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*December 1873* ?]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

Walnut Street

Boston

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Sarah,

If I had not been so very busy these last days, I should have written you for I have often thought of you at this season of anniversaries when one's friends are much in one's thoughts. You must not be afraid of my breaking down though, for I try not to be imprudent, and when I feel myself getting tired

[*Page 2*]

I do not go on just the same. I generally rush about before Christmas and fuss about presents, but this year I determined not to trouble myself and only gave presents where I happened to know what people wanted, so that my added cases & responsibilities have really taught me to be more careful. I should certainly not like to break down as a great many girls do. Health is such a blessing that one ought to hold on to it surely.

Since I wrote last, I have been to Newport for a Sunday.

[*Page 3*]

Kate* & I had a delightful time together of course. I shall go down as often as I possibly can, since Kate cannot come to me this winter. We went to church in the afternoon, and staid during the whole service and sermon! Just think what an improvement!

The poor Hunter children* sailed yesterday I suppose. What a sad coming home it will be. I saw a letter from [May *or* Mary *?*] which was heartrending in its

[*Page 4*]

account of the partings. Captain Mathew [*or* Mathews *or* Mathers *?*] is going to Japan,* and he will be quite a loss to Newport, for he was a standby and very convenient as a "walking stick." I forget whether you ever met him. Although he is not at all interesting, he is a person you cannot help getting quite attached to, and I am really sorry to lose him. You will send me the story* you spoke of writing will you not, or tell me where I can get it? It is so nice to be able to

[*Up the left margin, then down the top margin of page 1*]

do good in that way, and you authors must feel that you have a great deal in your power — I expect to go to New York & Philadelphia this month — probably towards the end. Shall you be here before do you think? Yrs with love, E. Mason

Notes

December 1873: This date is purely speculative, there being no internal evidence as yet discovered to establish a date. This guess is based upon having another letter from Mason to Jewett with a likely date of 6 October 1873. This letter seems to have been written near or after

Christmas, so there is a small likelihood that this letter follows that one.

Kate: Almost certainly this is Kate Birckhead. Key to Correspondents.

The poor Hunter children ... letter from May [*or Mary ?*]: These people have not yet been identified. Because Kate Birckhead's mother's family name was Hunter and the family had resided at Newport, RI, it is possible that someone in that family has died.

Captain Mathew ... Japan: The transcription of this name is uncertain, and he has not yet been identified.

the story: If the 1873 date for this letter is correct, Mason may refer to Jewett's first Deephaven story, "The Shore House," which appeared in *Atlantic* in September 1873.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters, Transcription and notes by Terry Heller, Coe College, from a Columbia University Libraries microfilm copy of the manuscript.

1874

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

Springfield 7 Feb. 1874*

Dear Prof. Parsons —

I have wished to write you dozens of times since I saw you but I have always been in a hurry so I have had to be like "the parrot in the story-book who, though he talked the less thought the more"! You see my visits are lengthening out, and I still have two or three short ones ahead — I enjoyed my Newport visit so much, and do you know that after telling Kate* one or two of the things I have learned

[*Page 2*]

of you about the New Church,* I discovered to my perfect joy that she has been getting interested as well as myself, only she hasn't had so good a chance as I, and I had the satisfaction of helping and teaching her a very great deal. We had such charming talks together and of course we never got so near each others hearts before — And I found through her that Ellen Mason* has been learning as fast as she could, but doesn't know anyone who can tell her more — [*deletion*] I shall see her when I go back to Boston and I know we shall enjoy so

[*Page 3*]

much together — And Grace Gordon* my other friend knew enough of the thing to wish to know more & I could help her, you know. It seems so wonderful that we all should have thought of the same thing and have waited without saying a word to each other until the right time has come. It is so pleasant to be able to help these friends of mine because they have helped me so much — and I have more reason than ever to thank you — I am only going to be in Boston a night of two on my way home but I am going to try very hard to see you again.

[*Page 4*]

I have so many things to tell you, and to ask you — There is one thing I will ask you now: Kate said that she and Ellen Mason had been puzzling themselves about Jonah — the last chapter in particular — about the gourd that came up and then withered away — you know?* She says it seemed as if they ought to understand it and as if it meant a great deal — I told her I would ask you if there was any interpretation of it printed, [or if *corrected*] not, if you would tell me what it meant. I have been reading some essays of yours that I did not have before — the first series — but I have only had time for the one on Correspondence

[*Page 5*]

and the New Church, & parts of the others. —

I was so sorry that I could not go to church with you that Sunday morning — I wanted to so much but I found my friends wished me to go with them & it wouldn't have been kind — I must say goodby now, though I could write on and on — all day! If I don't see you when I get back to Boston it will be because I really cannot. I have had such pleasant visits everywhere and everybody is so kind, and the thought of you, & what I am trying to do, & what I am living for — keeps coming oftener and

[*Page 3*]

~~and~~ oftener in to my heart. And the thought is always like sunshine — I know you will ask God to help me grow stronger and truer — With my best love

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1874: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA. The cancellation is blurred, but "Feb 8" is readable.

Kate: Kate Birckhead. Key to Correspondents.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

Photograph of Ellen Mason from
Harvard/Radcliffe Archives
Reproduced from St Michael's Country Day
School History (2014) by Jeff Day

Grace Gordon: Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden. Key to Correspondents.

Jonah ... gourd: In the Bible, see Jonah 4:1-9.

first series ... Correspondence ... New Church: "Correspondences appears in Parsons' *Essays First Series*. There is not in this collection an essay entitled "The New Church," but there is "The New Jerusalem."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Special Collections at Colby College. It was transcribed by the owner of the manuscripts before they were given to Colby College, Henry Ellicott Magill (b. 1902) of Pasadena, CA, who also may have made handwritten corrections to the transcriptions.

Mary Mapes Dodge to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead with blanks for filling in the date*]

EDITORIAL ROOMS.

St. Nicholas,

SCRIBNER & CO., 654 BROADWAY,

New York, Feb 18 1874

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett,

Your story of [~~your~~ *?*] "My friend The Housekeeper"* is accepted with pleasure. It will delight little girls.

We have so large a quantity of accepted mss on hand, that I cannot urge you to send the ^two^ other stories (about her) very soon, yet when you do write them I shall be pleased to see them. It will be best to make each complete in itself and ^to [give *corrected from* giving]^ ~~alluding~~ in opening paragraph the simple statement that the little girl had this little house etc — For we probably shall be obliged to print them at

[*Page 2*]

long intervals, if they appear in St. Nicholas.

[We *possibly written over* I] hope to have this story illustrated.

Yours sincerely

Mary Mapes Dodge.

The same names and characters may be introduced in the other stories.

Notes

Housekeeper: Jewett's "My Friend the Housekeeper," illustrated by E.W., was her third piece to appear in *St. Nicholas* — September 1874. Only one follow-up story about Nelly Ashford and her playhouse appeared, "Marigold House," in *St. Nicholas*, July 1875, also illustrated.

The manuscript of this letter is held by private collector, Kent Bicknell.

Mr. Bicknell also holds two items related to this letter.

1. An envelope with the printed return address of *St. Nicholas*, cancelled in New

York on 21 February, and addressed to Jewett at 38 West Newton St., Boston, MA.

2. A completed acceptance form for two manuscripts, also dated 21 February. Jewett's poem, "The Little Doll that Lied," was published in *St. Nicholas* in August 1874.

Below is a transcription of this form. The underlined portions are filled in by hand.

EDITORIAL ROOMS.

St. Nicholas,

654 BROADWAY,

New York, Feb'y 21 1874

Miss Sarah O. Jewett

Boston, Mass.

Please accept with the thanks of the Editors, the enclosed check of Scribner & Co., for — Twenty Eight — dollars in payment for article entitled

"The Little Doll that lied"

and

My Friend — the House Keeper

accepted for publication in ST. NICHOLAS. You will confer a favor by filling up and returning the enclosed receipt.

(OVER)

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick 3 M'ch. 1874

Dear Prof. Parsons —

I am at home again you see and though I never had such pleasant visits before I never was gladder to get back to my own particular corner of the world. Unluckily I have a horrid cold and am not fit for anything in the way of work, but then I never can end my holidays with a jerk as some people do —

I went to the New Church rooms* before I left Boston and got several books, but I have not read

[*Page 2*]

them yet — I don't feel like it and it is no use to crowd such things upon oneself. I shall enjoy all my books all the more for having waited a little. Ellen Mason* was so delighted with your having sent the book and paper to her. I was with her a long time Monday and we talked until late at night. She went down to Newport next day and I have not heard from her since I left, but I think there will be a letter within a day or two. I

[*Page 3*]

miss all my friends so much, and I can't help feeling a little lonely. [*deletion*] I wish there was just one girl in Berwick whom I could go to walk with and be friends with but there isn't, and I suppose it is a great deal better for me — I am rather blue today but I do not confess it [to anybody *corrected*] but you! There is a very old gentleman here whom I go to see every little while — and last night he told me that the first time your father

[*Page 4*]

held court in York he went with his father to see and hear him. The sheriff and other officers & lawyers all dined together at the tavern and Mr. Lord* said after dinner was over Judge Parsons said: "Mr. Sheriff you have given us a capital dinner, but there's one thing more I should like I don't see", and the sheriff asked [what *corrected*] it was and if he could get it. The missing article proved to be an after-dinner cigar and the sheriff departed in quest of it! I laughed to myself as I thought

[*Page 5*]

of your cigar boxes on the shelf by the fireplace — This [Mr *?*] Lord used to live in Portsmouth and knew the Buckminsters & Daniel Webster* and the men of that day, intimately, and I always enjoy his stories so much — He likes very much to tell them, beside!—

It is time for the letters to go to the postoffice and I think I will send this to you — more for my satisfaction than yours —

[*Page 6*]

I cannot begin to tell you how much I enjoyed seeing you in Boston [and *corrected*] at your own home — nor how much good it did me — Thank you so much for all your kindnesses — With ever so much love

Yours sincerely

Sarah

[*Page 7*]

I nearly forgot one thing I wanted to ask you about. There is a very nice boy whom I saw at Jamaica Plain who is in the Freshman class in college. His mother is very nice and was left a widow several years ago & has been educating him and he is doing the very best he can for himself. I took a great fancy to him. I think he means to be a lawyer — I was speaking of you one day and Mrs. Walker said she wished James* could know you — & I thought I wished the same thing but I didn't say

[*Page 8*]

anything of course — Would you mind his going to see you some afternoon? They never will know that I ever thought of it again, and I know your time is always taken up, so don't mind saying so if you don't care to be "bothered" with him! But I thought it wouldn't do harm to ask you —

Notes

New Church rooms: In 1874, The New Church Book Room in Boston was at Number 2 Hamilton Place, which also was the location of the New Church Union, founded in 1860. See *New Church Review* 20 (1913), p. 285.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

This Mr. Lord ... Buckminsters ... Daniel Webster:

"Buckminsters" is likely to refer to a friend of Judge Theophilus Parsons, father of the law professor, Joseph Stevens Buckminster (May 26, 1784 - June 9, 1812), who was an influential Unitarian preacher in Boston, MA, and was born in Portsmouth, NH. See Parsons' biography of his father, *Memoir of Theophilus Parsons* (1869).

American lawyer and statesman, Daniel Webster (1782-1852) represented New Hampshire and Massachusetts in Congress.

Mr. Lord probably was the John Lord listed in Key to Correspondents. However, Wendy Pirsig suggests an alternative, noting that John Perkins Lord, Esq. (1786-1877) would be a strong candidate. He resided at Portsmouth and may have studied law with Daniel Webster.

Mrs. Walker ... James: Jamaica Plain is a suburb of Boston. This may be James Wise Walker, who was in the Harvard Class of 1877. In 1880, he resided in Jamaica Plain, and he was attending Harvard Medical School and working in the Harvard medical library, according to the 1880 *Harvard College Class of 1877 Secretary's Report*, p. 48.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

S. Berwick 14 Apr. 1874

Dear Prof. Parsons

I [began *corrected*] to think I should never have a chance to write you — I kept waiting for a very quiet hour or two and it has not come yet, so I will send you a little letter, and still wait patiently — I must tell you how dear your letter was when it came and how

[*Page 2*]

many times I have thought of it and read it over again. Yes indeed, I could understand it; it was not a puzzle at all and you taught me ever so much — I think the best thing I have found in all these lessons I have learned in the year and a half since I first saw you — is that I have been taught to learn. I can see now that I get on

[*Page 3*]

ever so much faster than I did a year ago — You will be glad of that I know. And I must tell you too that I am finding out more and more, that I can help other people and have some influence over them — It was so long that — it seems to me now — I could not even give my friends pleasure, let alone the rest! — It is so strange that every one of my

[*Page 4*]

best friends should have been taught before this, either consciously or unconsciously many New Church ideas, so that we are all going on together, [more *corrected*] closely drawn to each other than ever we have been before, and knowing each other better — I have so much ^reason^ to be grateful to you, & I think of you so very often [when *corrected*] I am with my girl friends. I have had a 'good time' lately

[*Page 5*]

if I had not had a dismal cold — One of my friends has made me a charming visit and I came back yesterday from Portsmouth where I have been staying with another. I have had some nice books to read and spring is coming fast. I think when the dandelions come I shall be quite happy! — if my

[*Page 6*]

cold has gone — I have been off walking today in spite of it and [*deletion*] mud seems to have been a good medicine —

I don't think you would believe me if I told you how much I think about you — indeed, I don't know that I could count up the thoughts very easily for what you have said

[*Page 7*]

to me, and the remembrances of your kindness [are *corrected*] always flying in and out of my head. I don't mean out, exactly! only I was thinking just then how the birds went away — ^from^ and came back again to the trees. I think the thoughts do go out in one way that is just right; for thinking of your kindness helps me to [help *blotted*] other people. Sometimes I wonder why I have such a

[*Page 8*]

very good thing for my own as your friendship — just an almost good-for-nothing girl — but then luckily the rain and the sunshine do not choose out the very best of the flowers, and help them to grow stronger — and luckily you do not mind my being way down below you — But I hope I am 'growing up' — I hear from Ellen Mason* and she always talks about you — With ever so much love

Sarah

Notes

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

26 Apr. 1874* — Berwick —

Dear Prof. Parsons.

This is a dismal day out of doors, but luckily I have come to a very sunshiny state of mind & have been enjoying myself very much. I don't know that there is any special reason for my enjoying myself! There is one reason why I should not! I

[*Page 2*]

took so long and fast a horse-back ride yesterday that my lame shoulder fairly howls for mercy every time I reach out for more ink. I wonder if there is anything [to *corrected*] tell you: you see I didn't begin because I had something to say — only because I 'felt like it' — but you said I might write when I liked. When I asked for that — I didn't take into account the times when I should wish to talk to you & have something

[*Page 3*]

happen to hinder me — I think one of the best things about Heaven would be that we should know what our friends were doing and thinking and be able to talk to them any time. I believe I have read something about this in your books. But how much better it is, that we are separated from our friends here, for we should be in perfect distraction all the time. If I know always all about the many girls I am intimate with! Perhaps I think about them too much now, and

[*Page 4*]

not enough about my present work, but [if *corrected*] I had one of them living here in town she would take more of my time than all my letters do [on *?*] the whole. I am very dependent upon my friends and I am so glad to be. I dont think I mind being "under obligation" to people. And this makes me think of something I have been writing this week. It is an attempt at an essay on Outgrown Friends* — the 'friends' being both people and books. I like to take some subject of that kind

[*Page 5*]

2

something that I have to think about, for it does me so much good, & I wish to learn to think and to write, more than I care to have the things put into print. It is not reasonable to suppose I can do anything very noticeable yet. I should like to

help people by what I write by and by — and I should like [to *corrected*] write bright, nice stories about nice people too — But if I don't get on successfully, I don't think I shall be cross about it,

[*Page 6*]

I shall try and do whatever work I have, just as well as I can —

I heard of a sermon once called "Every man's life a plan of God."* I don't know even the text, and I never saw the sermon; but I have thought of that sentence a great many times. It is such a comfort to know that things dont come by chance & however puzzled we may be at first — everything is really right, unless we make it wrong for ourselves.

[*Page 7*]

I have been out of doors and in the woods a great deal [unless *corrected*] these provoking little snow storms come [*deletion*] and keep me in for a day or two. The flowers are very late this year and I have found no [hepatcas *so spelled*] at all, & only a few Mayflowers. I am so fond of the woods and I dont think I ever could be contented to live anywhere but in Berwick for it would be so hard to learn the woods and fields in a

[*Page 8*]

new place. I know my way all about Berwick. Sometimes I get discontented because none of my own best friends are here. I have been thinking a great deal about living in Berwick lately. I used to keep by myself and not care for the people at all in one way, though they are very nice & I am attached to them. But when we have our homes in places I think God must mean us to have something to do with the other people.

[*Page 9*]

3

I am growing much more interested in what is going on than ever I have been before, and I really enjoy the [interest *corrected*]. I am afraid I never have given my love for my neighbor much chance to grow. Neighbors in general I mean; for nobody can accuse me of not belonging most thoroughly to my friends! I told you I had taken a Sunday School

[*Page 10*]

class: it was so hard at first to talk to them, for I have only talked about those things with my own friends, but now I find it much easier. I didn't enjoy that first attempt. I think it made me use what courage I have. I read not very long ago the memoir of Mrs. Somerville* and I did like it very much! Her life seems to me such a simple, direct one, & she was just as careful to take

[*Page 11*]

care of her children's primer lessons as to solve the most intricate astronomical problems — She did all her work so well. Her life was not in the least like any one else's — and yet she makes me think of you, for you have done so much and done it all so carefully — It seems to me that nothing I do has the least 'finish' given it. I hope it is only because I don't know how to do my work, and not that I will not.

I do not mean writing, alone;

[*Page 12*]

I mean every thing about my life seems careless and wilful and thoughtless — half finished — and there are so many things I ought to have done that I never even began — Well, I think I will say goodbye, though that is just a formality for the ending of letters. Why should one ~~say~~ 'take leave' of a friend in this way, as if one stopped thinking of him when the letter [was *written over* is *?*] done? I [wish *corrected*] I had one of your photographs. Have you any? I have tried several times to get one in Boston

[*Up the left margin of page 9*]

but I could not. Do you mind my asking you?

With ever so much love

Sarah —

Notes

1874: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, cancelled on 27 April in South Berwick.

Outgrown Friends: This essay was not published until 1996, when Marjorie Pryse transcribed and edited it from a Houghton Library manuscript.

Every man's life a plan of God: Horace Bushnell (1802-1876) was a well-known Congregationalist clergyman and author, who for many years served North Church in Hartford, Connecticut (1833-1859). "Every Man's Life a

Plan of God" is from *Sermons for the New Life*. The sermon was published separately in 1876.

memoir of Mrs. Somerville ... astronomical problems: Wikipedia says: "Mary Fairfax Somerville (26 December 1780 - 28 November 1872) was a Scottish science writer and polymath, at a time when women's participation in science was discouraged. She studied mathematics and astronomy, and was the second woman scientist to receive recognition in the United Kingdom after Caroline Herschel." Her posthumous *Personal Reflections* appeared in 1873.

say: The handwritten corrections indicate that this word is crossed out in Jewett's manuscript.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Eliza Susan Quincy to Sarah Orne Jewett

5 Park St Boston

April 29 /74*

Dear Mifs Jewett

Your packet has just arrived safely & I am glad you like "Hospital Days." — Mifs Woolsey* would not hear of publishing it & I believe she was judicious for the public are so overwhelmed with books & periodicals that a limited private Edition is most valued.

At my request for more copies she had a second private edition printed one of which I sent you. —- She sent me

[*Page 2*]

six copies which I distributed in our public libraries keeping only two for lending copies for any friends. — I think it ought to be preserved as a memorial of the exertion of women in the war. — I admire the sketch you mention of "the soldier in the bright uniform"{,} It is beautiful but we thought it would have been more appropriate at the end than the beginning of the work.

Mifs Woolsey is now I believe organizing a hospital in

[*Page 3*]

the City of New York. — & I have not heard from her lately. —

I congratulate you on such a friend as M^{r} Lord.* — make lists of questions to ask him. — This was the model adopted when I was a young lady with three friends, Pres^{t} John Adams — M^{rs} Storer, a sister of my grandfather & my grandmother, M^{rs} Morton* & I have only regretted I was not even more inquisitive. — They were all three on the verge of ninety years & all perfectly bright & intelligent

[*Page 4*]

Ask M^{rs} Doe* to lend you the Memoir of my mother, M^{rs} E. S. M. Quincy* which I printed in 1861. You will be interested in the sketches of the Revolution &c. I heard D^{r} Buckminster* preach once in my childhood at Exeter, we were on our return from Portsmouth, where we had [helped *?*] an evening at M^{r} Elywins. — M^{rs} E — was the daughter of Gov. Langdon* & their house afterward became the Roseburgh House, but I do not recollect the exact name. — Their three daughters became very elegant fashionable women in New York & Philadelphia. — The gifted son of Mifs Stevens, J. S. Buckminster was an intimate friend in our family.

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

[my *not clearly capitalized*] sisters thank you for your intended gift of the May flowers. — with our love to M^{rs} Doe & your sisters sincerely ys

E. S. Quincy

Notes

'74: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, ME. It lacks a readable cancellation.

Woolsey: Jane Stuart Woolsey (1830-1891) was the author of *Hospital Days: Reminiscence of a Civil War Nurse* (1868). Encyclopedia.com notes that she was a cousin to Jewett correspondent Sarah Chauncey Woolsey.

Lord: Almost certainly, John Lord. Key to Correspondents.

Adams ... Storer ... Morton: Eliza Susan Quincy (1789-1884) was the daughter of Eliza Susan Morton Quincy (1774-1859) and Boston politician and Harvard University President, Josiah Quincy (1772-1864). Probably Josiah Quincy was related to the sixth American president, John Quincy Adams (1767-1848).

Mrs. Storer probably was Hannah Quincy Lincoln Storer (1736-1826).

E. S. Quincy's maternal grandfather was Irish immigrant, John Morton (1711-1781). Her grandmother and sister have not yet been identified. Wikipedia, Find a Grave, Massachusetts Historical Society.

Doe: Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents.

Quincy: *Memoir of the life of Eliza S. M. Quincy* (1861) by Eliza Susan Morton Quincy and Eliza Susan Quincy.

Buckminster: Joseph Stevens Buckminster (1784-1812) was a Unitarian preacher in Boston. His mother was Sarah Stevens (1753-1790). Find a Grave, Wikipedia.

Elywin ... Langdon: John Langdon (1741-1819) was an American politician, one of the signers of the U.S. Constitution. His daughter was Elizabeth Langdon Elwyn (1777-1860). Quincy misspelled Elwyn's name. Wikipedia, Find a grave.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 186. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick. 4 June

[*1874*]*

My dear Prof. Parsons.

I have been hoping to have a talk with you but I have been hindered from going to Boston. It has been a great disappointment for there are several people who have left the city or will do so within a few days whom I shall not see now until next winter. One would think

[*Page 2*]

there could be no reason why I should not take the three hours ride at almost any time. But we have had many visitors and for sometime I was quite ill with one of the horrid sore-throats which I hoped I had outgrown. Now my father and mother are in Philadelphia and it would be too lonely for my sisters if I went away. I have wished so much to see

[*Page 3*]

you and I hope you will come to Rye this summer as you thought of doing. I get very discontented sometimes when I wish to see my friends so much and it seems hard that I should be with them so little, but I know it is all right. I do little enough of work now and I am afraid it would be less. But I should learn so much more from a talk with

[*Page 4*]

you than from a weeks studying. I have been reading a good deal this spring and have read aloud to a woman here who cannot use her own eyes. She used to be my teacher when I was a little girl, & though she is thought a "peculiar" person and rather hard to find out, we have 'got on' famously, and she seems so glad to see me always. I am much more interested

[*Page 5*]

2.

in the Berwick people than I ever have been before.* I have tried to be — I know you will be glad.

I wonder if I ever have told you how much I enjoyed that essay of yours on the External New Church?* I cannot remember ^saying^ anything about it. It seemed so true and <u>right</u> to me. It is a great delight to me to notice

[*Page 6*]

how the ideas have spread and crept into people's minds, it is so wonderful the way one finds them at every turn. Father amuses me particularly, for as far as I can tell he 'believes' almost exactly as I do, and yet he [declared *corrected*] one day with great solemnity that there was a great mysticism to him in Swedenborgian ideas. I didn't dispute him

[*Page 7*]

but it seems as if people must find it all out before very long{,} <u>some</u> people must at any rate. It is so wonderful the way it has all come to me. Oh dear! when I begin to write I always have so many things to say, and such strings of questions to ask! I wish I could see you —

I think of you as enjoying this spring weather — I wonder why one never gets used to

[*Page 8*]

it? Spring is just as new to me every year as if I had never seen it before. I am delighting in my beloved dandelions just now, and I have such a

lovely bunch of lilies of the valley on my desk. I think there are more wild flowers this year than ever — I am reading among other things the Life of Margaret Fuller* — and I find it very

[*Page 9*]

interesting — I knew very little about her before, except what everybody knows — for I purposely put off reading this book. I am always so sorry for anyone who does not look back to a simple natural childhood as I do. It is pitiful to read of her knowing Greek and Latin [when *corrected*] she was such a little thing, and if I were given to such things I should have [*deletion*] cried

[*Page 10*]

over the memoir of John Stuart Mill. It must be such a wrong way of starting — and just think of having no memory of one's dear playthings, and those long sunshiny pleasant days when the whole world was new to us — I believe I am never going to outgrow ^some of !!!^ my childish ways. But the other life is like beginning life grown up — Good by and God bless you. Always your loving Sarah

Notes

1874: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Parsons at 54 Garden St., Cambridge, MA. The partially readable cancellation appears to be 6 June in South Berwick.

Penciled on page 1 in another hand is this note: (1874?). This is a reasonable speculation.

my teacher: This person has not been identified.

External New Church: Jewett probably refers to "The Church in the Wilderness," in *The Mystery of Life and Other Papers*.

Life of Margaret Fuller ... John Stuart Mill: Horace Greeley's *Margaret Fuller* was published in 1869. English author and philosopher, John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) published his *Autobiography* in 1873.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Katherine de Costa Birckhead* Fragment

9 June 1874

~~Dearest Kate~~

I just wish you were and I know how I would have you spend the rest of this perfect June day. You should have the loveliest drive down the river bank and perhaps I would take you rowing at sunset. I dont think I shall have many such perfect evenings in my life as yesterday's was. Mary and I went to drive and

[*Page 2*]

just as the sunset began to fade I saw somebody just pushing off from the wharf in the boat so I jumped out of the carriage and ran down the road and through the field to the shore as fast as I could go and caught the young man just in time leaped into the boat and took the oars as soon as I got my breath. It was almost too beautiful! The bank is high on our side & covered with splendid great

[*Page 3*]

pines & on the other the fields slope up very gently and there is a fringe of willows and alders by the water. It was high-tide and the frogs were screaming in the marshes. Once in a while a bird would sing in his sleep and when we went near the bushes they all waked up and flew away sleepily — The light faded slowly and finally the river was all in shadow. Then one ^pale^ star came out and a delicious dampness and

[*Page 4*]

[and *repeated*] perfume of pines, willows and apple blossoms which had been floating lightly in the clear upper air [*two deleted words*] fell close to the earth and water so we could draw long breaths ^almost^ as if it were something one could drink.

[*unfinished and unsigned*]

Notes

Birckhead: Though it is in a Houghton folder cataloged as letters to Kate Douglas Wiggin, the intended recipient almost certainly was Birckhead. In 1874, Wiggin turned 18, and her family moved the previous year to Santa Barbara, CA. While her family resided for some time in Maine, and she went to school in Maryland and Massachusetts until she was 17, it is unlikely that she and Jewett met until much

later. Jewett's known correspondence with Wiggin began in 1904.

On the other hand, in the 1860s and 70s Jewett was in correspondence on a first-name basis with Birckhead, one of her closest friends at the time.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 278.

Edmund S. Quincy to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*11 June 1874*]

Dear Mifs Jewett

In reply to your question about M^rs^ Wood,* I wish to say that she wrote a novel which I never saw & do not recollect the name. — I suppose she was in some degree indebted to her imagination for her facts, — [as *?*] for the filling out of her sketches. — [D^r^ *?*] Burroughs* who accompanied us to

[*Page 2*]

Kittery Point, told me that the abode of Lady Ursula Cutts* was two or three miles up the river ^Piscataqua^, that the house was gone but the main facts of M^rs^ Wood s story were correct. —

Very sincerely y^rs^

E. S. Quincy. —

[*Page 3*]

This note has laid unfinished several weeks as I have been very much engaged in finishing the Memoirs of J. Quincy jr 1775,* of which I have printed an Edition at my own expense, to give to my friends & public libraries as the life of one public man by another ought to be within reach of the people, it will be published in the autumn by Mefs^rs^ Little & Brown. — & then I shall ask your acceptance of a copy. —

[*Page 4*]

The return of M^r^ & M^rs^ Gould* from Cordova, & moving here have also engaged my thoughts & time & prevented an earlier answer to your note. — Hoping you are well & enjoying this beautiful season I am very sincerely y^rs^

E. S. Quincy. —

Quincy Mafs^tts^

June 11/74

Notes

Wood: Probably Quincy refers to Sarah "Sally" Sayward Barrell Keating Wood (1759-1855) an early Maine novelist. She also wrote historical sketches about the Cutts and others of her Kittery, ME ancestors. It is not clear whether these were published, but it appears in this letter that Jewett had access to some of them. See Hilda M. Fife, "Madam Wood's 'Recollections'," *Colby Quarterly* 7 (3 September 1965) pp. 89-115. Fife's notes indicate a number of points at which Wood's recollections may derive as much from imagination as from fact.

Burroughs: It seems likely this is Rev. Dr. Henry Burroughs (1815-1884), Rector of Christ Church, Boston in 1874.

Lady Ursula Cutts: Three brothers, John, Richard, and Robert Cutts were among the earliest settlers in Maine, in the area of Kittery Point and what is now Portsmouth, NH. John married Ursula, and at his death in 1681, left her a large property near Portsmouth "which she cultivated with taste and skill, and adorned with beautiful and rare flowers, brought from England. But in 1694 she was surprised, and cruelly murdered by the Indians, who, being unable to remove her rings, cut off her hands, and also her long, fine hair, with the scalp" (*The Life and Times of Hon. William Jarvis, of Weathersfield, Vermont*, pp. 433-4).

1775: Edmund Quincy's father was Josiah Quincy Jr. (1772-1864), an American politician who served as mayor of Boston, MA. However, this letter almost certainly refers to Edmund's grandfather, Josiah Quincy II (1744-1775), a Boston lawyer and supporter of American independence.

Gould: Benjamin Apthorp Gould (1824-1896) was an American pioneer astronomer and co-founder in 1871 of the Argentine National Observatory at Córdoba; he was its first director. His wife was Mary Apthorp Quincy Gould (1834-1883), Edmund Quincy's niece, and their daughter was American mathematician Alice Bache Gould (1868-1953).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 040.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

19 July 1874

My dear Prof. Parsons.

I have been on a long journey since I wrote you last — and am now home for just a few days, as I go to my aunt's at Rye on Wednesday. (Mrs. Bell's* at Little Boars Head) I think you told me that

[*Page 2*]

you should spend part of the summer at Rye, and so if you are there now or are to be there soon, would you be so very kind as to let me know, so I can go and see you? It seems a great while since I knew about you though by my saying this I don't wish you to think that [I *written over* it] mind your not writing. You know we arranged all that and I don't

[*Page 3*]

expect letters, but have the privilege of writing to you — I have been thinking a great deal about you lately — and I have been learning much in the course of my western journeyings. I wish I could talk them over with you and get you to answer a long string of questions which are puzzling my mind. If you are to be at Rye later I shall try & go over as I

[*Page 4*]

meant to do last year. That is if you would not mind. I send you by this mail a story of mine* which I hope you will find some bits of good in — I think I told you the plan of it when I saw you in the winter. With a great deal of love, yours most sincerely & gratefully

Sarah

Notes

Bell's: Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell. Key to Correspondents.

a story of mine: "Miss Sidney's Flowers" appeared in *The Independent* of July, 1874.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Mary Rice Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick

Aug 5 1874

Dear Judge Chamberlain:

I must tell you how glad I was on my return from Wells last evening to find your photograph waiting for me. It was very kind in you to remember me so soon. Thank you very much for it and for all the pleasure you added to

[*Page 2*]

our visit at the Cove. Sarah* & I started off very unexpectedly Saturday morning for Wells, to meet a party of friends, and I only returned last evening. We agreed that we should have gone to Wells first for it seemed rather quiet after the Cove. Ann Fox* comes this afternoon to the great delight of all the family. I do not imagine my intended reading will

[*Page 3*]

get on very prosperously at present, but I mean to do it just as soon as I can, for it seems too bad to go on as I have [been, going *so it appears*] since I came from school.

Shall we not see you here soon. Father and Mother will be very glad to see you, to say nothing of the younger members of the family. May I send my regards to Mrs Chamberlain, whom I hope to know some

[*Page 4*]

time? Mother thinks she remembers your sister, but is not quite sure. She was an invalid at the time and did not go out much. Sarahs autograph collecting received such an impetus from you, that I expect it will go on grandly now. We are going to Dover this afternoon for a portfolio for the treasures. Thank you again for the helping hand you have given us in our several ways. My reading has a new meaning since your suggestions.

[*Across the top margin of page 1*]

Hoping we shall see you here before many weeks. I am very sincerely

Mary R. Jewett.

Notes

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Ann Fox: The identity of Ann Fox is not yet known, though she is mentioned also in Sarah Orne Jewett's letter to Chamberlain of 5 August 1874. A contemporary person of this name in New England was Mary Anna Fox, who is mentioned briefly as the adopted daughter of Mrs. Eliza Baylies Wheaton's sister, Mrs. Judson, in *The Life of Eliza Baylies Wheaton* (1907). Mrs. Wheaton was a founder of Wheaton Female Seminary in Norton, MA, now Wheaton College.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 670.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick

5 Aug. 1874

My dear Judge Chamberlain

Thank you for the autographs and for your letter which came yesterday. You are very kind to me, and I don't believe it possible that you enjoyed the week at the Cove ^as much^ or have been as homesick since you went away as

[*Page 2*]

I! I have thought of one thing after another that you could have explained to me, but then it was not good by for always and I like to think I shall see you again before very long. And I must say here it was very good of you not to send all the autographs! I think you have been very generous already however —

The next day but one after

[*Page 3*]

I saw you I had a telegram from some friends and went in a hurry to join them at Wells ^beach^ where I stayed until Monday night. To-day our friend Anna Fox* is to come, & I wanted a day or two ^before this^ to myself; for I had any quantity of letters to write, and wished to have a slight "housecleaning" of my desk and get somewhat 'straightened out' — Mary* came home last night and after I brought her from the

[*Page 4*]

station I had the jolliest of horseback rides. I wish you had been with me — indeed I have wished for you again and again — You must surely come to Berwick! I must say goodbye now, but may I write to you sometimes? Not a 'debt and credit correspondence' for I don't wish to impose upon so busy a man, but I shall like to think I may ask you questions and 'be friends.'

Yours most sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

I venture to send my regards to Mrs. Chamberlain as I think we are sure to be friends one of these days & there must be a beginning to everything!

Notes

the Cove: The summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bell. See Chamberlain in Key to Correspondents.

Anna Fox: The identity of Anna Fox is not yet known. A contemporary person of this name in New England was Mary Anna Fox, who is mentioned briefly as the adopted daughter of Mrs. Eliza Baylies Wheaton's sister, Mrs. Judson, in *The Life of Eliza Baylies Wheaton* (1907). Mrs. Wheaton was a founder of Wheaton Female Seminary in Norton, MA, now Wheaton College.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collection: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston Public Library Quarterly* 9 (1957): 86-96.

New transcription and notes.

Mary Rice Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

So. Berwick

Aug 18. 1874

Dear Sir;

I owe an apology for not telling you before that the photograph came safely. I hope you were as fortunate in regard to your trunk which was quietly waiting down at this station for you{.} So Father ordered it sent

[*Page 2*]

to you. We went to Wells yesterday to a clam bake given by a friend of ours. Sarah and Carrie* are to stay there a week or more, but I insisted upon coming home.

We all enjoyed seeing you here very much only it would have been better if you had stayed longer. I must go out for a look at the

[*Page 3*]

hills for they must be as glorious as the sea was yesterday in the clear sunlight. Those lines you kindly sent me have been haunting me for days and I was very glad to see them in black and white. There is an essay upon Wordsworth* as a man & poet in one of Shairps* books that I am going to read.

It seems rather lonely here with both the girls

[*Page 4*]

away. This morning Father & Mother have gone to drive, so I have been lone and lorn. I'll have to go and see if the mail has brought me anything in the way of consolation.

The shadow of that clam bake hangs over me to that degree that I am too stupid to inflict myself upon you any longer. The rest of the family would doubtless join me in regard to Mrs Chamberlain and yourself if they were at home.

Very truly yours

Mary R. Jewett.

Notes

Sarah and Carrie: Jewett's sisters, Sarah Orne and Caroline (later Eastman). Key to Correspondents.

Wordsworth ... Shairps: Scottish literary critic, John Campbell Shairp (1819-1885). Jewett refers to his "Wordsworth" in *Studies in Poetry and Philosophy* (1874). William Wordsworth (1770-1850) was a British poet. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 670.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

Wells Beach 23 Aug. 1874

My dear Prof. Parsons.

I hope you haven't thought it odd that I have not taken any notice of your letter. I have never cared so much for you as I have since it came or thought of you more, but I have been 'on the wing' and I always like to write you when I can be quiet. And I have wished also to wait until I knew, somewhere near, the

[*Page 2*]

time I could go to Rye. I think it will be in about a week — somewhere near the 30th{.} I have a friend staying with me here, who is also to visit me at home & someone else is coming whom I cannot leave very well. I want to see you so much and being here reminds me of you more than any other place. I like so much to go to that

[*Page 3*]

window where we had our first talk. I have enjoyed being here with my friend for I have had her all to myself. I want to talk to you about her, & by the way, she has heard a great deal about you from Miss Annie Silsbee* of Trenton who is a dear friend of hers —

I was more happy than I can tell you — when you said such kind things about "Miss Sydney's Flowers"* — I felt

[*Page 4*]

as if I had really achieved something! You are so good to me and I hope and pray I shall not disappoint you or my other friends. I have made a great many plans about writing this fall & I hope to be very busy. But all this I can talk about & need not write, Will you be good enough to send me (at home) just one line to tell me where I may find you? I am going to Aunt Mary's* & shall spend the afternoon with you if you will have me. I know you will. Please

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

remember me to Mrs. Parsons & your daughter. Always your loving Sarah

Notes

Silsbee: Miss Silsbee's friend probably will prove nearly impossible to identify, and Silsbee also is difficult. A contemporary New Englander of that name is Annie Jean Silsbee (1839-1920), daughter of Rev. William Silsbee (1813-1890) and Charlotte Silsbee of Salem, MA, sister of Henry Bellows Silsbee and Joseph Lyman Silsbee.

"Miss Sidney's Flowers": "Miss Sidney's Flowers" appeared in *The Independent* of July, 1874.

Aunt Mary's: Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick

27 August 1874

My dear Judge Chamberlain

I hope you do not think I am rude not to have answered your note before, or at least to have acknowledged the receipt of the autographs which were most gratifying. I hope, now that I have

[*Page 2*]

settled down at home that I shall find an opportunity for making a more definite plan of my collection than I have had hitherto.

I have not told you yet what I wished to say at the very first: that your letter was delayed as I was down at the Seashore, and that since it came I have either not felt in the mood

[*Page 3*]

for writing or have not had a chance. I have just looked your letter over and though it seems unaffectedly kind and interested, it seems to me, that, as in the first reading, I do not quite catch your meaning, that you had some purpose in writing it and were somehow puzzled about our having known each

[*Page 4*]

other. I am very glad if I have given you pleasure, for you have been so kind to me, and I am never apt to forget a friend. Besides this, I am, as you know wishing most heartily to do my work better and to learn as fast as possible and you cannot doubt that I am ready to take all the help I find. And

[*Page 5*]

when this help is given me so kindly and cordially as you have given it, it is all the pleasanter and better for me. I appreciate your [friend ship *so it appears*] most heartily. I do not know that my saying this answers you satisfactorily, but I may understand you

[*Page 6*]

better by and by. I am writing in a hurry this afternoon for I have little time to myself as we have some visitors and I am continually on the wing. I had a charming week at the beach, indeed I do not know when I have been happier. I had a friend with me whom

[*Page 7*]

I am very fond of, and it is not very often I get one of my cronies all to myself. I think I have not written you since that pleasant day you gave us. I enjoyed it very much and hope it will not be the last. It was so nice to have you like Berwick so much. I hope to have

[*Page 8*]

a very satisfactory autumn. I like it best of all the year and I mean to do just as much as possible. Thank you for saying I may write you and ask you questions as much as I please. That is a great privilege. Good by —

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston Public Library Quarterly* 9 (1957): 86-96.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

9 Sept 1874

Dear Prof. Parsons

I was dreadfully disappointed that I didn't see you at Rye! I was waiting at first to hear from you, and then I saw Dr. Peabody* in Portsmouth who told me that he was quite sure you had gone back to Cambridge, but it seems that you were there a week or more after that. However it is all right as you say, though I must confess it seems hard to believe that it

[*Page 2*]

is better I should ~~be~~ not have had that day with you. I hope to be in Boston early in the winter. I have been away so much of the summer that I ought not to leave home at present, and beside, my friends will not be back in the City for some time. I wanted to talk with you about so many things: there are one or two friends of mine whom I knew you could help me about, especially the one who has just left me, [*deletions*] (Miss Annie Silsbee's*

[*Page 3*]

friend) — I am very fond of her and now she tells me that I am helping her & have made her see things differently, and I grow frightened and want to have you tell me some things I do not know myself — It is just what I wish to do most; help my friends — but in a case like this it worries me very much, for I feel how very weak and good-for-nothing I am. But God knows best and I can only try to keep in the right way and be good and true, and He will take care of the rest. I have

[*Page 4*]

had a very happy summer and I hope it has not been an altogether useless one to me or to the people I have been with. It seems to me that I have learned a great deal in these last few months, but there is so much to be dissatisfied with. I'm glad of it, too; and yet I get so provoked with myself for not climbing faster.

I was afraid that after so long and jolly a holiday, I should have trouble in settling down again to my work, and I miss my friend so much too. But I have been writing steadily these

[*Page 5*]

last few days and it has not been at all hard. I have been at work on a childs story for "St. Nicholas".* I hope I shall not make a bad use of my good luck in being able to write fast, and having no trouble in getting my stories printed. I try very hard not to be careless, but when I am telling these stories for children I remember my own childish thoughts and ways so clearly that it is no trouble at all and I am never at a loss for something to say. I must tell you again

[*Page 6*]

how glad I am that you liked "Miss Sydney's Flowers."* I have read over that kind letter of yours and thought of your kind words so many times! And I am so glad other people liked the story too. I was a little afraid it was too "preachy" — and wished, after it had gone away to the printer that I had not moralized so much. So I was delighted to have some of my friends whom I suspected of laughing at me, say how much they liked it all through & praise even the things I was sensitive about.

[*Page 7*]

I am learning that if one says such things and acts such things honestly and kindly that there is always something gained. You told me once that there should be something positive — something to be really learnt, in my stories, that they ought not to be just written for amusement, though that was a good object enough ^in itself^ — and I am finding ^it^ true. I know you will not misunderstand me and think I am ashamed of trying to be good & wish to keep it to myself; I know people often used to say good things to me in a most disagreeable way, and I don't

[*Page 8*]

wish to follow in their footsteps — or lessen my friends liking for goodness, even the least bit —

It is perfect weather here and I am very well. I have grand plans of work laid out — but life doesn't seem to be drudgery by any means, & I have ever so much more 'time' than I used when I was drifting — I go into the woods after cardinal flowers which I am crazy over this year — & I row down-river, and ride horseback too fast for good manners, but it is some times a little lonely — Five people left us on Saturday but I only wish one of them back, and perhaps

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

with my usual perversity, when more guests come I shall wish

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

I were alone again! But that depends! I must say goodbye

[*Up the left margin of page 7*]

now and I always have to say "Thank you". Always your loving

Sarah.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

I have been up among the mountains since I wrote you and have been a better girl ever since. I spent my birthday there. I always like to go once a year at least — I wish you had been there.

Notes

Dr. Peabody in Portsmouth: Probably Andrew Preston Peabody (1811-1893), pastor of South Parish Unitarian Church in Portsmouth, NH, and eventually a professor and acting president of Harvard University. He was editor of the *North American Review*, 1853-1863.

(Miss Annie Silsbee's friend): Miss Silsbee's friend probably will prove nearly impossible to identify, and Silsbee also is difficult. A contemporary New Englander of that name is Annie Jean Silsbee (1839-1920), daughter of Rev. William Silsbee (1813-1890) and Charlotte Silsbee of Salem, MA, sister of Henry Bellows Silsbee and Joseph Lyman Silsbee.

story for "St. Nicholas": This could be "My Friend the Housekeeper" in *St. Nicholas* (1:650-653), September 1874, collected in *Play Days*, 1878. Jewett's next story in *St. Nicholas* was "Marigold House" (2:571-575), July 1875, also collected in *Play Days*.

"Miss Sidney's Flowers": "Miss Sidney's Flowers" appeared in *The Independent* of July, 1874.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick 27 Sept. 1874

Dear Prof. Parsons.

I don't seem to be getting on very fast with my work yet, for we have been busy with more visitors. Not that I wish you to think I consider my writing my only work, but I was making grand plans just at the time I wrote you last. And I delight in having our friends here, particularly when they are ~~our~~ ^my^ own especial friends — It would be such a satisfaction if I could always throw my whole energy into the work of the moment but it must be a long time before one learns to do that perfectly, judging from my own experience!

[*Page 2*]

I think life has seemed very different ever since I learned definitely from one of your books that everything that "happens" has the possibility of good or bad in it and that it is for me to choose which shall be mine. It makes things so much plainer — but I think I have told you this before.

— It just flashed into my mind that I have entirely out-grown a feeling I used to have — of waiting — that I was to have some work that would take up my whole mind so I could work "with both hands heartily"* — I know I said once that I felt as one does when one is waiting in a railway station — you watch the people and read the notices and wander

[*Page 3*]

about idly, but the question is — When will that train come? Somehow I was very much interested only once in a while — but now it is all changed and now I try harder to do the days work — and let the grand [tours *?*] take care of themselves — I have been doing a good deal since I came home — and am making great efforts to be systematic though I ~~dont~~ think there is no immediate prospect of my becoming radically so! I am studying Chamber's Cyclopedia* with diligence and I have music lessons and German lessons but I'm pretty sure it is better not to neglect some other things for the sake of my studies — I learn fastest (particularly such things as help about my writing) by observation — and I never should be much of a student

[*Page 4*]

of books — not that I have not always read a great deal and always shall but I mean real study — However one must row with both oars and so I shall go on — I can't imagine a person's learning a language just for the sake of knowing it — when it will be no practical use — and as for mathematics — why, words fail me! Yet I do like dearly to learn, as you know, only I suppose I like to have my own way about it — I have done a good deal of reading lately in spite of my interruptions for I am so fond of it and can read so fast that, there can always be a little every day, at any rate. I have been at Sir Thomas Browne* again and ^I have had^ a new little work of Geology which Father got lately — And

[*Page 5*]

2

I have been reading Cranford* over again which piece of news will amuse you I think — but it is just as new every time and more delightful than ever — Dear Miss Matty! and do you remember Peters rigging himself up as a lady and calling on his father — as 'she wished to see the author of that admirable Assize Sermon' and the rector's setting Peter the task of copying a ~~course~~ ^series^ of twelve discourses on Napoleon Bonaparte for the appreciative guest after she had left!!

I have had some delightful drives lately with Father who has been very busy — and we have had some nice talks. It has always

[*Page 6*]

been one of my grand ambitions to be able to talk with "father" and it is so pleasant now that he talks with me as he does to his own friends besides its teaching me so much. We go from medicine, & theology, and law down — and sometimes talk nonsense and tell each other 'yarns' all the way!

I would give almost anything if I could see you this afternoon: don't you think it is very hard sometimes to wait — when one wishes so much to see a friend? I wish some body would invent private telegraphs so we could talk with people

[*Page 7*]

at a distance — But perhaps this is a foolish wish for our thoughts would wander frightfully, at least mine would — and [we *corrected*] shouldn't pay even the attention we do now to our own affairs which nobody else can do if we leave undone — But I do want to see my best friends so much sometimes — There is one [thing *corrected from* think] I wish I could talk to you about — I have been reading 'The Infinite and the Finite'* over again — and I find I understand so much more of it than I did at first, though I thought I understood it then — And I have no doubt that a year from now I shall find a great deal more —

[*Page 8*]

I can't possibly write all I could say if I were with you — Only it is so pleasant to re-read a book after a year or two, and then see how much one has learned from it and has been unconsciously putting into practice. I mean now to be in Boston for a day or two in November if "the girls" are all at home then — and I hope it will 'come true;' — , that visit. All my summer plans did — I hope you are well and are enjoying your writing which you told me of. I think of you every day I'm pretty sure, and I'm very sure that I am always your loving Sarah —

Notes

"with both hands heartily": "with both hands earnestly" appears in the Bible, Micah 7:2.

Chamber's Cyclopedia: This may be problematic. Jewett specifies the Cyclopedia, which *Wikipedia* says is easily confused with *Chamber's Encyclopedia.* According to *Wikipedia: Cyclopedia: or, An Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences* (two volumes in folio) was an encyclopedia published by Ephraim Chambers in London in 1728, and reprinted in numerous editions in the eighteenth century. The Cyclopaedia was one of the first general encyclopedias to be produced in English.*"* On the other hand, *Wikipedia* says: "*Chambers's Encyclopaedia* was founded in 1859 by W. & R. Chambers of Edinburgh and became one of the most important English language encyclopaedias of the 19th and 20th centuries, developing a reputation for accuracy and scholarliness that was reflected in other works produced by the Chambers publishing company."

Sir Thomas Browne: Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682), English author of *The Anatomy of Melancholy* and *Religio Medici*. Wikipedia.

Cranford: Mrs. Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell (1810-1865) published *Cranford* in 1853. Miss Matty Jenkyns, a rector's daughter, is one of the main characters. The episode in which Matty's long-absent younger brother, Peter, plays a joke on his father — by dressing as a woman and visiting him — appears in Chapter 6. Peter's father then sets him the task of copying a number of sermons to give to this fictitious lady.

'The Infinite and the Finite': Parsons' book was published by Roberts Brothers, Boston, in 1872.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick 29 Sept. 1874

Dear Judge Chamberlain

Will you tell me sometime where I can find out something about "Roger Bacon"?* I know very little, and dont know where to find more. I have been very busy since I wrote you last — and instead of having been hard at work at my 'writing' I have been driving with Father — and enjoying the friends who have been visiting us. Two or three have been my especial cronies, so you will know

[*Page 2*]

I have been happy! The two Aunt Marys will be here next week I think and after them Helen and Persis, & don't you think ^that^ (to quote from one of our favorite Rye Ballads,) "five of them will be foolish"?* I'm sure it will be a very 'good time' — I have not had much time for study, though I have begun German & music lessons, and am reading Chamber's Cyclopedia.* I have always read it, but never consecutively & I think this will teach me much more than any amount of disconnected reading — I don't

[*Page 3*]

have a great deal of time to my self but I shall by and by. There is no one in the parlor but Father who is taking his after-dinner nap so I can give you no messages. I hope you are well and I am sure you are enjoying this fine weather —

In haste, yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett*

Notes

The two Aunt Marys ... Helen and Persis [*Bell*]: One of Jewett's Aunts Mary was Mary Olivia Gilman Long. The other was Mary Bell, second wife of Charles H. Bell. Her daughter was Mary Persis (Mrs. Hollis Russell) Bailey (1864-). It appears that Mary Persis at least sometimes was called Persis. See Mary Long in Key to Correspondents.

Roger Bacon: Wikipedia says: "Roger Bacon (1214-c.1292), OFM ... was an English philosopher and Franciscan friar who placed considerable emphasis on the study of nature through empirical methods."

one of our favorite Rye Ballads ... "five of them will be foolish": Rye is a beach town in Rockingham Country, New Hampshire. It seems likely Jewett refers to a gospel hymn by George F. Root, "Too Late: And five of them were Foolish." The hymn is based on Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem, "Late, Late, so Late." Both derive from the Parable of the Ten Virgins, or the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, which Jesus tells in Matthew 25:1-13.

Chamber's Cyclopedia: Chambers' *Cyclopedia*, according to *Wikipedia*, was one of the first general encyclopedias to appear in English (1728, with numerous later editions and revisions). It seems more likely, however that Jewett was reading another reference book. *Wikipedia* says: "*Chambers's Encyclopaedia* was founded in 1859 by W. & R. Chambers of Edinburgh and became one of the most important English language encyclopaedias of the 19th and 20th centuries, developing a reputation for accuracy and scholarliness that was reflected in other works produced by the Chambers publishing company."

Jewett: In pencil, in another hand, below and to the left of Jewett's signature, someone has written "Hallam," presumably alluding to British poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, whose close friend, Arthur Hallam, died young. Tennyson's first son was named Hallam. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston Public Library Quarterly* 9 (1957): 86-96.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick 25 Oct. 74

Dear Prof. Parsons

I'm sitting up to see the eclipse* and I'm tired reading so I will write you ^now^ instead of waiting until tomorrow — I have been trying to find time, for many days, but I seem to grow more & more busy and to really accomplish less & less — I have to put off so many things every week & it seems as if the things I really do are not half so satisfactory as the work they hindered me from doing, would have been. But perhaps I'm not the best judge of that — I get almost no time for my writing & that is a sorrow. I amused Mary* very much this morning while we were driving together by saying a certain apple-

tree in a field was just like me. It hadn't been pruned and was a wilderness of "suckers"

[*Page 2*]

and unprofitable little scraggly branches — I said; 'I wish I grew in three or four smooth useful branches instead of starting out here, there & everywhere, and doing nothing of any account at any point.' I seem to have 'so many irons in the fire' (to use an old fashioned proverb) and I grow worried when I think of it — I must ask you about this when I see you — It's hard for me to know what to do: I don't like to shut myself up half of every day and say nobody must interfere with me, when there are dozens of things that I might do. I have nothing to do with the housekeeping or anything of that kind, but there are bits of work waiting all the time that use up my days — I hate not to do them & I'm afraid of being selfish, and shirking — and yet — well, I'll not talk any more about that, but let it wait.

[*Page 3*]

Its a hard question to me just now, and it will be so nice to talk it over with you. I'm almost sure I shall see you within a few weeks. And there is something else I wish very much to ask you about, and I think perhaps you can tell me some of the New Church books I can read. It's the question of praying for other people. I never thought about it until this summer, but one day somebody said to me, that she wished she could pray for her friends, but she couldn't, and she didn't think there was anything said about it by Christ — that it seemed to her we must each pray for ourselves & that if we would not take the gifts of God & were not ready for them — no amount of anybody else's asking could alter the case — I don't know whether that idea of prayer is right, that just so fast as we are fitted to receive, there comes the feeling of need and the asking, and 'prayer' is merely

[*Page 4*]

a signifying of our capability for reception — That seems to be my friend's idea, and I think I may have had some such idea myself if I had tried to think it out — But I have always prayed in the most childish fashion for all the people I care for — and no amount of theorizing could reconcile me to giving it up — I have tried very hard to remember if I ever have heard you say anything about prayer, but I do not think I have — It has troubled me very much lately — and I have wished to help my friend too — I want to tell you about her, when I see you — It is so provoking sometimes that I can't see more of the people who are dearest to me and who help me most, but I know it is all right ——

I have been ill lately — no, not exactly ill, but I hurt my knee one day in the

[*Page 5*]

saddle in the course of a hard ride and that made me lame for a [week *corrected*], and I had an abominable rheumatism in the shoulder that got [*deletion* ?] hurt when I was run over in New York* — so I was shut up in the house and ^was^ very unhappy in my mind. I like to stay out of doors all I possibly can, and I have been riding and rowing often — I met with a great affliction one day last week, and it will be very consoling to tell you the particulars! I was going cunner-fishing* down at Dover-Point, half a dozen miles down river, and my heart was entirely set upon it. I was to stay until the middle of the afternoon and it was the first chance I had had, and the last day the tide would be right — I was going joyfully down to the boat with my lunch in a basket

[*Page 6*]

and the bait all ready when I met Father who told me I mustn't go, for the wind was coming round north and I should get cold, and be late home and it wouldn't be a nice day for fishing — Wasn't that hard? For I had waked up at least two hours earlier than common and it was the perfection of weather apparently. However, it was windy, and I was glad I didn't go, a few hours later — I came home and tried to settle down to my 'copying' — but it was utterly impossible to smile for sometime! I think I should have made a grand fight and have gone, perhaps, at an earlier period in my life but I seem to grow slightly more reasonable as I grow older — And there's nothing that is much harder than being hindered from having one of my wandering, out-door days — I am so happy when I can be out in

[*Page 7*]

the woods or open fields and I hope I never shall outgrow my fondness for such days — I [try *corrected*] not to let my boyishness (if it is that) make me rude and unladylike. I don't see why it need do so, and my feeling of real friendship for the hills around here, and the things that grow in summer, is very deep, certainly — There are certain trees that seem to have as much character and much the same kind — as people

have, and I know them & am glad to see them again when I have been away — They mean a great deal to me that houses never can — I have told you often how much I lived outdoors in my childhood & how I was contented — even [when *corrected*] I was quite alone which was oftenest the case — and I'm almost sure I could live the same life now — Though I'm not sure that I should find the infinite satisfaction I used in damming

[*Page 8*]

brooks! That used to be one of my chief pleasures I believe! But I mustn't chatter any longer — Ellen Mason* asks me about you when she writes. She never will forget our call upon you last winter — She is not home from Newport yet; they stay very late — She is one of the people I wish to see most —

I must say good night, or rather good morning as it is between one and two —It seems like the old days when I used to write at night, and I am so wide awake — I am afraid Sunday will not be very profitable for I shall be too sleepy to like the sermons much — but I couldn't sleep when there isn't to be another eclipse, for eighteen years. I have been reading about this lately, & about the transit of Venus which I am very much interested in —— Goodbye —always your loving

Sarah

Notes

eclipse: Wikipedia lists the lunar eclipses, including that of 25 Oct. 1874.

About the transit of Venus, Wikipedia says: "A transit of Venus across the Sun takes place when the planet Venus passes directly between the Sun and Earth (or another planet), becoming visible against (and hence obscuring a small portion of) the solar disk.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

run over in New York: Jewett reports this event in a letter to Theophilus Parsons of 17 April 1873.

cunner-fishing: Wikipedia says: "The bergall, also known as the cunner, conner or chogset, Tautogolabrus adspersus, is a species of wrasse native to the western Atlantic, where it is found from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland to the Chesapeake Bay."

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

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New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

12 Nov. 1874

Dear Prof. Parsons:

I hoped to have seen you before this, but I have had to put off going to Boston until later. I do wish I could see you — and I wonder if it will trouble you too much if I ask you to send me some day the least little note so I shall know

[*Page 2*]

if you are well. I know how much there is to take up your time, & I hate to ask this, but if you only knew how much I think about you and wish to hear — I haven't written lately because I expected to see you, but there isn't a day that I forget you.

I am busy all the time though I haven't been able to resist taking holidays during the perfect weather we have

[*Page 3*]

had — & I sometimes go down river rowing & sometimes go riding — and sometimes into the woods which have been lovely all the autumn. I have not found much time for my writing, for there seems to be a great deal else to do, but I am all ready to go to work when I do have a chance. Are you getting on well with your book?* I often think of it, and you don't know how often I have wished I lived near you so I

[*Page 4*]

might help you about the copying — & the writing sometimes. Oh, [wouldn't *corrected*] I like it! I write horridly when I write letters for I hurry so, but I can copy with most surprising elegance!! — I shall have so much to tell you when I do see you, that I shall make you very miserable. I wish I could have gone to Boston, but Mary* & I couldn't very well go together just

now, &, I wanted her to go — Goodbye — With much love yours always

S. O. J.

Notes

your book: Parsons at this time was working on *Outlines of the Religion and Philosophy of Swedenborg* (1876).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave.

New transcription and notes.

1875

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

6 Jan. 1875

Dear Prof. Parsons.

I hoped to see you long ago or I should have written to thank you for your kind letter. I put off my Boston visits again, until after the holidays; but I have been ill and am just beginning to go out again. It was nothing serious, only I had a shocking 'cold' which, as usual

[*Page 2*]

left a cough behind it, & I always have to be careful —

I hope it is not too late to wish you a happy new year — at any rate I do so most heartily — I wish I could see you this afternoon and have a long talk, but I hope I shall see you before very long as I mean to go to Boston [about *corrected*] the middle of the month, which is not far off now — I don't

[*Page 3*]

wish to go away until I am perfectly strong again —

I shall be in a great hurry to get out to Cambridge I can tell you! — Your letter [*deletion ?*] was such a pleasure to me and I learned ^much^ from it as I always do — but those things are to be talked about soon (I hope) so I will not write a long answer now — I only wished to tell you why I had been silent, though I'm sure you

[*Page 4*]

did not suspect that I ever forget you for even a day. And I wished to send you my good wishes for the new year — With much love

Sarah —

I am beginning to feel very grand for I was advertised among the "crack contributors"* to the Independent. Isn't that a step ahead!

Notes

"crack contributors" Jewett refers to the *Independent* beginning to list her among its well-known contributors in advertising future issues.

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New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick

9 April 1875

My dear Judge Chamberlain

I have been meaning to acknowledge your kind little letter which I received before I left Boston but I fear I am fast losing the reputation of being a good correspondent which I used to have in my early days — I have been in Boston again

[*Page 2*]

since my long visit — It was last week and I only stayed two or three days. I went down to see Ristori and I enjoyed her most heartily — I saw her play Marie Antoinette and Mary Stuart* — The first play was almost unbearably sad and though I didn't take refuge in tears like my neighbors, I was a day or two "getting over it" —

I thought of you and Mrs. Chamberlain while I was

[*Page 3*]

in the city but I had little time and did not see half my friends —

I was so glad to hear through Helen Bell* that you are 'going abroad' — I am sure you will enjoy it so much, and you may be certain that I send you my best wishes. I hope you will have a splendid time and that your plans may all come true, or else something better happen in their places — I hope to go some

[*Page 4*]

day myself — but the older I grow, the longer I am content to wait — for I wish to know more than I do now about what I am going to see — I am sorry that you will not be one of the party at 'the Cove' this summer. I shall miss you there, but "good times" rarely repeat themselves I find — and so I am always sorry to have any pleasure come to an end for though I hope for other good things, it is a little sad

[*Page 5*]

to have to say goodbye to any one ^good time^ in particular — I often think of: "In every end there is also a beginning" ——-

I associate it with "[On *corrected*] the Heights"* but I have a doubt just now as I write whether I found it there or somewhere else —

As for my collection of Autographs it grows slowly — Mrs. Waterston gave me a charming note of Mr. Longfellow's when I was in Boston and Miss Quincy*

[*Page 6*]

has promised to save some for me. I find that I grow more interested in them — and yet it is better fun to get them than it is to have them —

I must say goodbye now — Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Chamberlain. If the family knew I am writing they would add some messages I am sure — If you have time while you are gone I should be gladder than ever to hear from you. I went to the Atheneum *so it appears*] the other

[*Page 7*]

day with Father and remembered our sojourn there with great pleasure — Father was much edified by my wisdom!

With the best wishes for your journeys Yours most sincerely

S. O. Jewett.

Notes

Ristori ... Marie Antoinette ... Mary Stuart:

*Adelaide Ristori (*1822-1906) was a distinguished Italian tragedienne. Wikipedia shows illustrations of Ristori in her roles as Marie Antoinette and Mary Stuart.

Paolo Giacometti (1816–1882) was an Italian dramatist. In *The World's Progress* (1896), William C. King says that Ristori first brought Giacometti's *Marie Antionette* to New York in 1867. She returned with this play and others to New York in 1875 for a nine-month tour of the United States. *A playbill* from the Boston Globe Theatre indicates that she performed there in early April of 1875.

Friedrich Schiller's *Mary Stuart* is a verse tragedy telling the story of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Helen Bell: Jewett knew two women named Helen Bell. For Helen Choate Bell, see Key to Correspondents**.** It seems more likely, however, that this mutual acquaintance of Jewett and Chamberlain would be the daughter of the politician, Charles H. Bell, Helen (Mrs. Harold North) Fowler (1848-1909).

"In every end there is also a beginning." ..."On the Heights": *On the Heights* (1865) is by Berthold Auerbach (1812-1882) and translated by Fanny Elizabeth Bunnett (c. 1832-1875). Though there are passages in this text that connect with the sentiment of the widely quoted proverb Jewett remembers here, this quotation does not appear in Bunnett's translation. One might suspect that Jewett is remembering a line of Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, whose queen's motto was: "In my end is my beginning," but that line apparently does not appear in the play.

Mrs. Waterston ... Mr. Longfellow's ... Miss Quincy:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). Key to Correspondents.

Among Longfellow's correspondents was the Rev. Robert Cassie Waterston (1812-1893), who also corresponded with Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was married to the poet Anna C. Quincy, daughter of Josiah Quincy III.

The Quincy family was prominent in Boston in the 19th century; notable among Jewett's contemporaries and likely acquaintances was the lawyer poet Josiah Phillips Quincy (1829-1910) who became mayor of Boston (1895-1899). It seems likely that the "Miss Quincy" who might give interesting autographs to Jewett in 1875 would be Eliza Susan Quincy (1798-1884), the artist and author, the oldest sister of Anna C. Quincy, but this is by no means certain.

Atheneum: Wikipedia says the Boston Athenaeum "is one of the oldest independent libraries in the United States. ...The institution was founded in 1807 by the Anthology Club of Boston, Massachusetts. It is located at 10 1/2 Beacon Street on Beacon Hill."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston Public Library Quarterly* 9 (1957): 86-96.

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Georgina Halliburton

South Berwick

13 April 1875*

Dear Georgie

Before I begin my work this morning I wish to have a little talk with you. I was ever so glad to get your note and all the more so because I did not expect it that night. I was very glad to see the 'blue paper' I assure you! I have missed you very much since I came home and have thought of your talks a great deal. I hope it will not be so very long before we see each other again. I am delighted when I think of your going to Boston and I hope

[*Page 2*]

you will have the loveliest of all your visits there, and I shall expect to hear all about it by and bye — I told Hatty Seeger* that you are to be at 23 Marlboro St. That's right, isn't it? She is ever so glad you are coming and says she shall see you very soon. I hope you will see Kate and Ellen.* I wish if you have time you would go to see Kate, Georgie — I think she would be greatly pleased and she is very pitiful it seems to me. She doesn't seem to make new friends readily now and though the larger part is her own fault, it is just as bad or even more so — I think it must

[*Page 3*]

do her good to see any body like you — and she [*corrected from* they] needs a great deal of 'scarlet'* evidently — since she has fallen into a way of living which makes her own life a dull cloudy color and casts a shadow over her friends. I thought just now that it would be fun sometime to compare our friends and acquaintances to different colors! — I wrote Ellen a long letter a day or two since and talked about Kate in it — not scolding at her or making fun of her, but because I pitied her and felt so strongly that she needs help. I hope to hear from Ellen [*written over* Kate] sometime this week. I don't think she realizes that Kate is drifting the wrong way, for she likes to

[*Page 4*]

take care of her, and the more Kate depends upon her, the more tenderly she feels. But you know all this and so I will talk about something else —

I am going to finish "Seashore Cronies" and then if I have sufficient courage I shall begin our story.* I have had another cold since I left you and I have felt too stupid to do anything, but I am ever so much better this morning. I find how much this series of 'colds' has taken out of me — when I try to write and especially when these warmer spring days come — but I shall get on all right and it is no use to worry. I am afraid I

[*Page 5*]

shall soon be good for nothing but visiting my friends! ——-

<u>Wednesday</u>. I didn't finish my letter yesterday, as I meant to do but I hope to be forgiven! I meant to write you more in the evening but I was writing ^nearly^ all day and had my German lesson beside. So I was tired enough in the evening to go to bed early. I had another nice letter from Prof. Parsons* yesterday, indeed I have had ever so many nice letters lately and I ought to take at least three days to pay my debts in. I really should like to take one day every week

[*Page 6*]

for my letters — but then I never should feel like writing, that day.

I am at work now on "Sea-shore Cronies{.}" I wish you were here so I could read what I have written to you and talk it over. I hope it is going to be nice. I must say good-bye though I always find it hard to stop when I once begin talking to you! I hope you will have a perfectly lovely visit, and will not lunch with him.* I believe he is there Wednesday. Poor soul! I think we are rather hard upon him. My heart relents when I think how unappreciative we must seem. But you and I understand each other, don't we

Yours always with truest love

Sarah —

Notes

1875: This transcription is uncertain. Jewett's handwriting admits of reading the date as 1876 or 1878 as well as 1875. My choice is based upon Jewett's discussion of "Sea-shore Cronies," a sketch that presumably became "Deephaven Cronies" and was published in September 1875.

This may be confirmed by noting that 13 April is clear in the ms., and that Jewett indicates that she completed the letter on Wednesday. 13 April fell on Tuesday in 1875, but not in 1876 or 1878.

Hatty Seeger: C. Carroll Hollis says that Hatty Seeger probably is Harriet Woodworth Seeger (b. 1843?), a schoolteacher and Jewett friend from Boston. If this identification is correct, then her parents were Harriet Woodworth Foot (1814-1843) and Dr. Edwin Seeger (1811-1866).

Kate and Ellen: Probably Kate de C. Birckhead and almost certainly Ellen Frances Mason. See Key to Correspondents. Several letters from 1875-6 refer to a "Kate" who lives in New York City and who suffers from emotional and physical maladies during this period. A 15 May 1876 Ellen Mason letter to Jewett seems to make clear that this Kate is not Birckhead, but this Kate's identity remains unknown.

scarlet: In her sketch, "A Color Cure" (1882), Jewett says: "Scarlet is most invigorating and cheering in its effect upon the human mind. Let us imagine a person in most feeble condition, who has suffered some terrible strain or other, who cannot bear even the most delicate treatment with tonics. The skillful doctor of this new school reads the case at a glance and orders a very few minutes of the red room to be administered with great care. The light is shaded at first, and the duration and brilliancy of the color are increased from day to day, until the recovery is completed."

our story: Which story Jewett refers to is difficult to know. Jewett published only a few stories between April 1875 and the release of her novel, *Deephaven*, in 1877. Perhaps there is something autobiographical in "Deephaven Excursions" (1876). Perhaps this story was published much later, if at all.

Prof. Parsons: Theophilus Parsons. See Key to Correspondents.

he: The identity of this person is as yet unknown.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (260).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sara Norton

South Berwick Maine

13 April 1875

My dear Sally

I hear you have had some photographs taken lately and I wish if you haven't quite forgotten me that you would send me one. I think very often and very lovingly of you and the other girls and your dear mother for you were all so kind to me that

[*Page 2*]

winter in Philadelphia, and I had so many jolly good times with you all. Doesn't it seem a long time ago? I wish you would tell me what you are all doing. I hear of your having a most charming time abroad and I am so glad — I have been in Boston most of the winter and enjoyed my friends very much

[*Page 3*]

and find Berwick rather dull as there are no young ladies here whom I care much for, but perhaps it is naughty of me to say that! I have had a cold all winter long but I find I mind it here more than in Boston! Are you never coming back again? I hope so, for I want to see you all again. — Wouldn't it be nice if Piffy*

[*Page 4*]

could walk in upon [you *corrected*] tonight and have a good long gossip about old times and

new times? I have [been *?*] writing a good deal since I saw you and I think by the time you come home (if you give me time enough) I shall be a great author! Give ever so much love to all

[*not signed*]

Notes

Piffy: This appears to be a variation of the nickname, Pfby, by which Sarah Orne Jewett's sister, Caroline, addresses her in a few letters. See for example Elvira Irwin Furber to Sarah Orne Jewett of 24 April 1876.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 270.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

—·—

THE RIVERSIDE PRESS,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

[*End letterhead*]

[*Date appears to the right of "Cambridge, Mass."*]

May 21, 1875

Dear Miss Jewett:

Your paper is perfectly charming. You've worked in the old material skilfully, and the new is good. You've got an uncommon feeling for talk — I hear your people. And I have had a better laugh than I've enjoyed for many days at the lecture on True Manhood.* But wasn't it too bad? I feel as if I had delivered it.

Yours truly

W. D. Howells

Notes

True Manhood: This lecture appears in Jewett's "Deephaven Cronies," Jewett's second Deephaven sketch, which appeared in *Atlantic* in September 1875.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105).

Another transcription appears in *Life in Letters of William Dean Howells*, v. 2, edited by Mildred Howells. New York: Doubleday, 1928.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick 30 May 1875 —

Dear Judge Chamberlain

I think you were very kind to write to me so soon, and I enjoyed your letter exceedingly — I am so glad that your sight-seeing has begun so charmingly and your letter made me wish I could be in Killarney too — Though I am in no hurry to 'go abroad' for I think the longer I wait, the more I shall enjoy it and besides, there is still so much to be seen and done at home. I am still a stranger to many charming things in this little country-town of mine and it is

[*Page 2*]

more beautiful this spring than ever before — I have been boating a great deal and I wish you could go with me 'down river.' The other night I took a basket with me and put ashore wherever I pleased — for it was high tide — and dug fern and columbine roots, and picked anemones and violets — and then, after it was too dark for that, I rowed up river a long distance and let my boat drift down again. There was a little of an exquisite sunset left, and the birds were going to sleep and the air was sweet with the smell of willows and ^wild^ cherry blossoms — I think

[*Page 3*]

it would all have been as pleasant to you as it was to me —

I must tell you something about my work as well as my play: and first, I have finished a continuation of "The Shore-house"* which perhaps you remember — I worked very hard on it and was a little tired at the last, and expected a letter of criticism in two or three weeks — so it was 'ever so nice' to have a note from Mr. Howells* in less than two days, beginning with "Your paper is perfectly charming" and saying also "You have an uncommon feeling for talk. I hear your people" — and some other charming

[*Page 4*]

"remarks" — So I was goodnatured for several days, and I was all the better pleased because I felt I had tried to earn the praise. I am getting on slowly now with some other sketches — but I have many interruptions and sometimes I am sadly puzzled, not liking to neglect either my writing or the other things and something must be crowded out — Gardening and driving with Father and [studying *corrected*] and sewing and visitors cannot be put off or ignored oftentimes and so the writing has to wait — and I often feel very sorry, for the ideas and plans that come into my head are like the dreams

[*Page 5*]

2

which are clear enough when one first wakes in the morning, but which are faded out and forgotten by noon — —

I am glad you liked the verses in the Atlantic.* I do not remember however, that you [said *corrected*] you liked them! I suppose I guessed at it from your telling me that you read them over more than once — You are right in saying that somebody would read between the lines: they were written once when I was thinking of one of my 'cronies' in Boston of whom I am very fond; but I have not confessed this to anybody but the person

[*Page 6*]

herself. I have [innocently *corrected*] answered when people asked if they were for any one in particular — that they would do for several of my friends — [*deletion*] as the pope sends encyclical letters to the bishops! It is somewhat true — that answer, but not strictly, so you must keep the secret.

What do you suppose I have for a bouquet on my desk? I have just looked up and saw them: a big bunch of dandelions. I'm so fond of them, and I believe on reflection, that there is no other flower I like so well. They bring back my childhood

[*Page 7*]

so vividly, if indeed I need to have it brought back, when it seems to me sometimes I never have lost it! It has been hard for me to get used to being grown up.

— I wonder if I have anything to tell you in the way of news? I never have very much to tell. My letters seem to be made up of chatter about myself — We are to have Helen and Persis Bell* here as soon as they are through with a fair which is to come off in Exeter — May Gilman* was here with another small cousin of mine two or three weeks ago — and I enjoyed her more than ever — We condoled with each

[*Page 8*]

other tenderly because you were not to be at the Cove, and I am sure we shall miss you very much indeed — I wonder where you are? I think you must be somewhere in England and I hope you are enjoying yourself most heartily — Thank you again for writing to me for it was a real pleasure to hear from you — The family would wish to be remembered to you if they knew I was writing —

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

"The Shore-house": "The Shore House" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (32:358-368), September 1873. Jewett reworked it and incorporated it into *Deephaven* (1877). The "continuation" was "Deephaven Cronies," which appeared in *Atlantic* in September 1875.

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. See Key to Correspondents**.**

the verses in the Atlantic: "Together" first appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (35:590) May 1875.

Helen and Persis Bell: Sarah Almira Gilman (1827-1850), a Jewett relative from Caroline Perry Jewett's side of the family, had married the politician, Charles H. Bell (1823-1893). Their daughter was Helen (Mrs. Harold North) Fowler (1848-1909). C. H. Bell's second wife, Mary E. Gray Bell (1826-1894), was the mother of Mary Persis (Mrs. Hollis Russell) Bailey (1864-). It appears that Mary Persis at least sometimes was called Persis.

Bell built for his second wife a summer home, the Cove, in Little Boar's Head in North Hampton, NH.

May Gilman: Presumably this is Mary Gilman, daughter of Mrs. Alice Dunlap Gilman. Key to Correspondents**.**

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston*

Public Library Quarterly 9 (1957): 86-96. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett and others to Mellen Chamberlain

Introductory Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated partial transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston Public Library Quarterly* 9 (1957): 86-96.

This manuscript is a group letter to Chamberlain, from which Alden transcribed only the portion contributed by Jewett as well as the verses below. The letter is dated from Little Boars Head on 11 July 1875. At this time, Chamberlain and his family were traveling in Europe, not at the Cove, as they usually were in the summer. Below is a new fuller transcription with notes.

Contributors to the letter were Mary Elizabeth Bell, Charles Henry Bell, Helen / Herring Bell, Mary Gilman (daughter of Alice Dunlap Gilman), and the Jewett sisters: Caroline Augusta / Gusty, Mary Rice and Sarah Orne / Sary. See Key to Correspondents for further information about the contributors.

Selections from the Contributors

Mary Elizabeth Bell presents a summary account of their stay to date (7/2 to 7/11/1875) at the Bell's summer home, "The Cove," in Little Boars Head, NH.

"The Jewetts were our first visitors — Mrs Long and Mrs Willard come next .... We mifs you very much, and our young ladies have had a much less gay visit than that of last year .... "

Charles Henry Bell

We have no notion what part of the habitable globe you are in, at present; but we trust you are enjoying yourself hugely, wherever you are. We all feel that it makes a serious difference in our summer at the sea side, that we are not to have the pleasure of your company. If you knew how often this is said among us, your ear would burn permanently. We all look forward to next year, with great expectations, because in addition to the satisfaction of looking upon you in our circle again, we anticipate the enjoyment of listening to your adventures in foreign parts. So keep your eyes about you, and remember your friends.

Mary Rice Jewett

The annual trip to Portsmouth came off yesterday{.} The day was rather dark and threatening, but the appointed time having arrived, Persis & Carrie started in the phaeton leaving the rest of the girls to follow in the large carriage. We had great fun and consumed much ice cream & cake and arrived home safely just after eight. Unfortunately we had no Aunt Long to present with a hat and no Judge to make the presentation speech as was our happy lot last year. We have two highly respectable elderly ladies to keep us in order at the table. I have to be particularly solemn as they are my right-hand neighbors.

Mary Gilman

"Aunt Long" has not yet arrived to make her annual visit, but we are looking forward to it with great pleasure.

Mary Persis Bell

The Jewetts are about departing and I am obliged to go in the coach — instead of Sarah, as we have not you to escort her —

"Alas! for maiden, alas for Judge"!

Caroline Augusta Jewett

We have our hats on all ready to start for home after having a delightful visit. We have missed you very much in our good times. We hope you will appreciate the "Lament{.}"

Helen Bell

They wont let this letter go without my adding a line — As I detest writing I will simply wish you a pleasant journey — Next year I hope you will be here to join in our "high old times" —

Sarah Orne Jewett [*Page numbers added*]

[*Page 1*]

Dear Judge, I feel that you will deeply sympathize in the feelings I have tried to express in the enclosed Lament — and send it, thinking it will be more interesting than any other addition to this letter — I hope you are enjoying yourself particularly — We have missed you very much —

Yours sincerely S.O.J.

[*Page 2*]

— Tune, Hamburg. —*

A Lament
The tides creep slowly in and out,
The sea winds blow; the wild birds call;
Oh sweet and bright the wild rose blooms –
There is a shadow o'er them all.
Ah, what to us the rose's bloom?
How can we care for sea-birds' song? —
Through tears we watch the restless sea
For absent is our dear Aunt Long.
We loved to sit upon the rocks;
To watch the waves and dashing spray,
But sigh, for she, who oft last year
Was spattered with us, is away.
No more we raise our voices sweet
To that melodious darkey tune,—
There's no Aunt Long to serenade,
And useless is the fair new moon.
Her grave behavior; solemn looks;
The hat she wore of ample size

[*Page 3*]

Sweet reminiscences by scores,
Fond memory shows to mournful eyes.
Oh, 'Herring' wails and 'Gusty' howls,
And Mary fadeth like a leaf.
Persis and Sary, pale and thin
No longer eat, for deepest grief.
The elders strive to hide their grief —
Her namesake steals away to cry;
The afternoons are spent in tears,
And unavailing misery —
Her call on Thursday only served
To make our sadness still more deep.
It passed as quick as swallow's flight —
Or pleasing vision seen in sleep.
The roses fade upon our cheeks,
And hushed is mirthful shout & song.
We mourn beside the sad sea waves,
The absence of our dear Aunt Long.

Note

Tune: Hamburg: The hymn tune "Hamburg," is credited to Lowell Mason (1824). Perhaps the most familiar hymn sung to this tune is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (1707) by Isaac Watts.

Horace Elisha Scudder to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*5 August 1875*]

My dear Mifs Jewett

I must obey my impulse to tell you how delighted I am with Deephaven Cronies in September Atlantic. It is the real thing and I hope you will not mind what I or any one else may have said to the contrary, but go on writing in just this way, until you give us not another Cranford,* but something just as agreeable and just as idle.

Do you ever come to Cambridge? I wish we might see you here — we being also Mrs. Scudder and the twins, (with minds, ma'am) who are now be

[*Page 2*]

ginning their eighth month, small girls to whom I have just dedicated a child's book.*

I left the firm at the beginning of the year and am given over to all manner of book and article and story making.

Ever sincerely your

Horace E. Scudder

N$^{o.}$ 3 Berkeley Street

Cambridge 5 August 1875

Mifs Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Deephaven Cronies: "Deephaven Cronies" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (36:316-329), September 1875.

Cranford: Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865) was the British author of *Cranford* (1851-3), which Wikipedia describes as a collection of sketches, "which sympathetically portray changing small town customs and values in mid Victorian England."

dedicated a child's book: Scudder's *Doings of the Bodley Family in Town and Country*, published by Houghton & Co., in 1875, was dedicated to Ethel and Sylvia, the dedication including this verse:

> They came by night at the turn of the year:
> One was dark and one was fair,
> It would have been lonely for one to be here,
> So both came down the heavenly stair.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 041.

George Parsons Lathrop to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

the Atlantic Monthly,

———

The Riverside Press

Cambridge, Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

Newport R. I.

August [6 *corrected*]. 1875

Dear Madam,

Your note to Mr. Howells,* suggesting the insertion of a name in Deephaven Cronies was referred to me, as I was nearer to the proofs; but unfortunately it came too late, the last revision having already been made & the plates being cast.

[*Page 2*]

I am sorry, because the name you propose was a pretty one, in keeping. But the article is so excellent throughout, that I think we may console ourselves.

Very truly yours

G P Lathrop.

Notes

Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Deephaven Cronies: Jewett's story appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1875 and was later incorporated into *Deephaven* (1877).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, JEWE.1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

[*12 August 1875*]

My dear Mr. Scudder:

Your kind note reached me yesterday, and I thank you most heartily for telling me that you liked 'Deephaven Cronies.'* You have always been exceedingly helpful and kind to me and I assure you I am not disposed to be unmindful of it, or to forget how much interest you have shown in my work — I am so glad [*two marks*]

[*Page 2*]

that the sketch pleases you and so glad that you cared to tell me so! — I mean to do the best I can and I am growing more and more interested in my writing every week. I have not seen the sketch yet, but no doubt the magazine will be published in a few days. I should be very glad to see you again and I wish I knew Mrs. Scudder. When I am in Boston next winter I shall be glad to accept your kind invitation & shall certainly 'make a point' of calling at No. 3 Berkeley St.

[*Page 3*]

It is very pleasant to have your praise but I should be equally ^glad^ to be warned and reproved when you find occasion — I am glad you are writing again — as glad as I was sorry that you stopped —

Yours most sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick

12 August — 1875

Notes

Cronies: Jewett's sketch appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, XXXVI (September 1875), 316-329, and was collected in *Deephaven*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967).

New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Smith Thayer*

[*17 September 1875*]

Dear Miss Thayer

I am delighted to have the autographs which you sent me by Hattie* — and I think you are very kind and very generous! I am particularly glad to have Lady Duff Gordon's* which could have been hardest to find. Aren't you making some

[*Page 2*]

kind of a collection yourself in which I could help you? You see it seems so little to be able to merely say 'thank you' for these things which are great treasures — and I truly hope that some day I can do something for you — I was only sorry not to see you before I came away, to

[*Page 3*]

say good-bye — but I was somewhat hurried and the hours went so fast & I wanted to go back to Northampton and I was homesick after a most childish fashion, for I enjoyed my visit with all my heart & I feel very much like chattering to you this afternoon, but I must stop writing as I am not

[*Page 4*]

quite ready to go out and I must not keep Mrs. [Foot *?*]* waiting — With thanks for all your kindness and kind regards to Mrs. Thayer

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Springfield

17 September 1875

Notes

Thayer: While it is not certain that this Miss Thayer is the recipient, it is very likely. At the time of this letter, Jewett was visiting in Springfield, MA. Northampton, MA, is about 20 miles north of Springfield. Jewett's family was acquainted with Susanna Bradley Thayer (1801-1885), widow of newspaper editor Abijah Wyman Thayer (1796-1864). Their surviving unmarried daughter in 1875 was Sarah Smith Thayer (1827-1903).

Hattie: Harriet Seeger, niece of Eliza Seeger. Key to Correspondents.

Gordon's: Presumably this was British author and translator, Lucie, Lady Duff-Gordon (1821-1869). Wikipedia.

Foot: This transcription is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Ripley and Thayer families papers, Series: I. Correspondence / Sub-Series: B. Correspondence removed from William Sydney Thayer album, MS Am 3068, Box 15 (232).

Sarah Jane McHenry (Howell) to Sarah Orne Jewett

Phila. Nov. 21st 75.*

1937 Chestnut St.

My dear Sarah,

You will doubtless think I intend slighting you, but such is not my intention, but I have been very busy the last few week{s} getting furniture and seeing about our house. We have bought one in West Philadelphia, a square below Uncle [Fred's *?*].* I am perfectly delighted with it, but cannot say that I am a great advocate for the country. I must tell you some thing of our plans, the

[*Page 2*]

thirtieth of December is Mammas thirtieth anniversary and we [propose *corrected*] celebrating it by [my marriage *?*]. I will be married by Dr. Boardman,* the same minister who officiated at Mas. We are going to have three bridesmaids & groomsman [*intended groomsmen?*]. Lizzie Crane, Mollie Smith, & Miss Howell, are [practicing away *?*]. This is about all the news I can tell you at present. I must tell you one thing more about some presents we have received. A new set of Gorham Silver,* also

[*Page 3*]

a pitcher, salver, & goblet of Gorham, a doz. solid knives, ladle, & [*2 unrecognized words*] I think so soon we have received quite a number, don't think I am egotistical, but if ever you get into the same scrape you will feel the same. When does Carrie* expect to be married?

Yesterday afternoon about four o'clock the whole city was excited with the tidings that the Market St. bridge* was in flames, it was too true, it caught by the

[*Page 4*]

explosion of gas, it had been burning scarcely half an hour when it fell with the most awful crash into the river, it was put out by the rain, for it just came down in torrents. The rain still continues; I went up to see the [wreck *? corrected*] and they are putting up telegraph~~s~~ wires, poles, etc. Arrangements have been made to begin to morrow to reconstruct the bridge. Great excitement prevails about the

Moody & Sankey meetings;* Ma intended going this morning but the rain prevented. I have

[*Page 5*]

such a sick headache I can hardly see, and with [this head / check *?*] I [*deleted letter*] am [*deleted letter*] not in the most delightful state of mind. [Orne Godion *?*]* has just <u>come</u> in and such a clatter, it is almost impossible for me to write. The awful King about lime and all kinds of fertilizers; I expect Etta Jackman [over *?*] to our wedding. She was over here a few weeks ago and she promised since to come; We have all been wishing for some roast oysters. Alice* is going to get some, Do you remember the night we had the frolic, when we all got

[*Page 6*]

down on the floor{?} What a nice time we had that winter. I should not mind going through the [*unrecognized word*]. Give ~~my~~ love to all the family and accept a large share for your self . Your loving friend

Sadie McHenry —

Notes

75: This letter appears to have been composed before McHenry's marriage to William Howell, which apparently took place on 30 December of this year.

Uncle Fred: This appears not to be a paternal uncle; but beyond that nothing is yet known of this person.

Dr. Boardman: Probably this is Henry Augustus Boardman (1808-1880), long-time pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Lizzie Crane, Mollie Smith, & Miss Howell: None of these women has been identified, though, presumably, Miss Howell would be a sister of the groom, William Howell, Jr.

Gorham Silver: The Gorham Silver manufacturing company was founded in 1831 in Providence. RI.

Market St. bridge: The Market Street bridge over the Schuylkill burned on 20 November 1875.

Carrie: Jewett's sister, Caroline, married Edwin Eastman on 21 October 1878. See Key to Correspondents.

Moody & Sankey meetings: According to the Philadelphia History timeline, on 21 November 1875 "Moody and Sankey, famous religious revivalists, began a series of meetings in the old Pennsylvania freight depot, southwest corner of Thirteenth and Market Streets." Dwight Lyman Moody (1837-1899) was a Massachusetts-born Christian evangelist who established himself in Chicago, IL in the early 1870s. At about the same time, he met the popular Pennsylvania-born gospel singer and composer, Ira David Sankey (1840-1908). They became partners in evangelism, holding "revival" meetings through the United States and Great Britain from 1871. Wikipedia.

Orne Godion ... awful King about lime and all kinds of fertilizers: This transcription of the name is uncertain, and no further enlightening information about these references has yet been discovered.

Etta Jackman: This person has not been identified.

Alice: It seems likely that Alice is a household employee, but this is not certain.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters. Transcription from a Columbia University Libraries microfilm copy of the manuscript.

Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston — Nov. 28<u>"</u> 1875 —

Dear Sarah — I am writing on the 'Missionary Book."* [*so punctuated*] Are not you pleased? — This is really the first moment I have had to write a line — since I received your letter. It is only because it is Sunday evening & therefore wicked for me to sew or paint that I am not busy as busy can be for that sale which is to come off on Wednesday next & shall not I be glad ~~that~~ when it is over — ! This pen is atrocious! excuse me, it is one of your making —

I am ever so much obliged for your photograph — it

[*Page 2*]

is <u>so good</u> — does not every one say so? — Georgie* was here the other day & saw it & likes it as much as I do — do not you like it? I am so glad you have some struck off — how are your Father's —? You must [*faded word*] us one —

Aunt Elizabeth & Ellen* are here now. Came last Monday. We had quite a pleasant

Thanksgiving Day. Did you? you must write & tell what you did. We went to Ch. in the mg.* Our "Harvest Home" was even more successful than last year, & it was so good{.} Afterward I [see *?*] the 50 boxes heaped with the offerings which went [to *?*] many

[*Page 3*]

poor families — how glad they must have been. Joseph* sent quite a handsome [*unrecognized word* contribution *?*] — he was here the other morning. I do not think he is looking at all well —[as *intended* and *?*] we were very glad to see him — Will* to return —[*three unrecognized words*] & I had a nice walk{.} I have seen so little of her since she has been back — & in evening we all went out to the [Sleepers *?*]* — after having all the ["Proffesers"* *so it appears*] to dinner — There was nothing wildly exciting but you see — there never is in a family party — Tell Mary* please, that, thanks to her, my eyes are ever so much better — well I call

[*Page 4*]

them, though they still trouble me when I get tired — This is a very poor apology for a letter dear Sarah, but I thought I would not [*deleted letters*] let another day go by without a few lines at least. I will write longer next time — write to me soon — won't you? — It is just "porridge time"— & I must go to brs —*

Grace —

"Love to Mary " ——

Notes

"Missionary Book": This ambiguous reference is not resolved in the letter. Two likely possibilities are that Gordon is using a book about Christian missions as a portable writing desk, or that she is reporting on her work preparing a book to be sold at a fund-raising sale for church missions.

Georgie: Georgina Halliburton. See Key to Correspondents.

Aunt Elizabeth & Ellen: Gordon's relatives are not yet known. Ellen may be a cousin, daughter of Elizabeth. Elizabeth may be the wife of one of her paternal uncles: Nathaniel, John, Stephen, and George, or she may be a sister to Gordon's mother.

Ch. in the mg: Church in the morning.

"Harvest Home": The Harvest Home festival in the United States generally has been incorporated into the Thanksgiving holiday, though in European history, it has occurred at other times during the late summer and autumn. Gordon seems to refer to a celebration at her Boston church that included expressing gratitude for well-being and providing charity to the needy.

Joseph: This person has not been identified.

Will: The transcription at this point is uncertain. If Gordon intends a name, this person is not yet known.

[*Sleepers ?*]: Though the transcription is uncertain, this probably refers to the family of her mother, Katherine Sleeper.

"Proffesers": Gordon's meaning is uncertain. Professors in her context could refer to university scholar/teachers or to members of her family's church.

brs: breakfast.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. See Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick*

21 Dec. 1875

Dear Anna

You see I keep to the fashion of our tender farewell and discard forever the formal 'Miss'? — — I wish to tell you about the circular I promised you and which no doubt you have entirely forgotten — However I must try to keep my promise all the same! I mean the 'society for the encouragement of study at home'* { — } you remember we were talking about it one day? — I wrote to my friend Ellen

[*Page 2*]

Mason* to send me some circulars for you but though I have two letters since she has quite forgotten to put them in. She is busy— and I don't suppose that when I mention them again I should get them for a week or so, and the truth is I can no longer put off telling how dreadfully edified Mary* and I were with your sweet note and your lovely appreciation of the item I had sent — I knew in an instant what you referred to

in "Baddeck"* and it was capital! How did you happen

[*Page 3*]

to think of it? Mary and I had such a laugh and I went up in the book closet in the garret and sought for the Atlantic and brought it down to Mary's room in triumph. I wish you had been there — and indeed I have wished I could see you a dozen times — Didn't we have a good time! I have heard twice from 'the bride',* once from Washington and once from home. She appears cheerful doesn't she? Only think of Alice's* going to Paris.

I have been very quiet since I came home and did not do anything ~~until~~ during the first week [as *corrected*] making eight visits in

[*Page 4*]

less than three weeks is apt to lessen one's enthusiasm. I had some blessed good times though! Last week and this I have been writing with great diligence and have never felt more like it. Isn't it nice to be busy? Which [question *corrected*] I am proud to ask being woefully lazy by nature — Did you know you have another friend in Berwick beside the [Jewett's *so punctuated*] ? Mrs. Burleigh,* — who goes to congress — and she told me the other day to give her love to you — I wonder if you have gone to Washington yet — I have forgotten when you told me you were to leave — I must stop writing — but you don't know how

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 1*]

much I wish this could have been a talk instead of a letter. I wish I could see more of you! I hope you will have a pleasant winter. Don't you want to send me a little letter one of those days? though I know it is a great deal to ask of such a busy girl — Only I know you wouldn't write if you didn't care to do so & I have confidence in your

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

sincerity. "Are you asleep?" "Good night Pet!"

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jewett

[*Cross written from the left margin of page 3*]

Mary sends ever so much love to you— and desires to say that that was a sweet note of yours, and she hopes you will lose none of your interest in good reading while you are in Washington —

Notes

society for the encouragement of study at home: Anna Eliot Ticknor (1823-1896) founded the Society to Encourage Studies at Home in Boston in 1873. This first correspondence school in the United States offered women access to college courses. Wikipedia.

Ellen Mason: See Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. See Key to Correspondents.

Baddeck: C. C. Hollis notes: "Under the heading "Recent Literature" In *Atlantic Monthly*, XXXV (June 1875), 737-738, an anonymous critic (probably Howells) reviews ***Baedeker's Handbook for Travelers*** (Boston: J. R. Osgood, 1875). The genial commentator remarks humorously on the value of Baedeker's and its American counterpart (also reviewed) for American tourists and especially for honeymoon couples."

bride: Ella Walworth Little. See Key to Correspondents. Her sister was Alice Walworth. Hollis says she "was apparently something of a problem in the Walworth household. Subsequent references reveal that Sarah and Anna finally came to dislike her, although earlier they had taken her side in family differences."

Burleigh: John Holmes Burleigh (1822-1877) was a Member of Congress from 1873 to 1877.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Mary Mapes Dodge to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin Letterhead, underlined text handwritten.*]

EDITORIAL ROOMS.

St. Nicholas,

[SCRIBNER & CO., 743 & 745 BROADWAY.]

New York, Dec 21 1875 —

[*End Letterhead*]

My dear Miss Jewett

Your bright little owl story is accepted with pleasure for St. Nicholas, though we have taken out one episode* which we felt marred the story. I send it to you, thinking you might like to use the verses elsewhere.

If you do not approve of this change (though really the story is charming & complete without these pages as the "joining" can be ~~made~~ perfect) or you prefer to have the MS entire to use elsewhere, you have but to say so, & it shall be promptly forwarded.

Entre nous, though these verses & the relative letter-press are so well managed that they might pass, I have more than once rejected MSS on account of a point being made jocularly, of cooking and eating mice, & have so stated to the authors (my personal friends) & so I hardly feel ^that^ it would be 'fair play' to make an exception now — This much by way of explanation so that you may acquit me of the possible charge of undue squeamishness —

With hearty greetings, in view of the coming Xmas,

Yours truly

Mary Mapes Dodge.

~~Shall we~~ We shall send you a 'proof' of the story before it appears in St. N.

Notes

The Pepper Owl: "The Pepper Owl" appeared in *St. Nicholas* in June 1876 (3:492-496).

one episode: With the letter is the returned portion of the manuscript, two pages from "The Pepper Owl." The first page, the prose paragraph, has a line through it diagonally top left to bottom right.

[1]

One of the dolls whose name was Adeline and who wore a plaid silk dress with a black lace cape, had a gift for repeating poetry: she also made up verses herself sometimes. She was very obliging and not at all shy, so when some of the company asked her to say something she began at once to repeat this poem which she said she had lately learned.

[2]

24

As I was walking through a grove
I saw the sweetest fowl!
His head was round, his eyes were big
He looked so graceful on his twig,
It was a charming owl.
He bobbed his head to me and said;
"Do you live in a house?" —
"Of course" I said "My lovely bird." —
"Don't wait to speak another word,
Let's go there for a mouse!"

He took my hand: he whispered low
"A hungry bird am I."
I told the cook to serve some mice
One broiled, two baked, three roasted nice
And four mice in a pie.

———

When that dear owl had eaten all
He sweetly smiled and said
"I love a friend who treats me so.
And when I'm hungry I shall know
Where I can be well fed.

———

In all the world I truly think
There's nothing half so dear
So beautiful as good mice pies
You were an angel in disguise
Who kindly brought me here.

———

The manuscript of this letter is at the University of New England, Maine Women Writers Collection, Jewett Collection correspondence corr047-0-soj. 32.

Anna Laurens Dawes to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Letterhead: see notes below*]

Washington D. C.

Dec. 23. 1875.*

My Dear Sara [*so spelled*].

A merry Xmas to you and your sister. I wish I could say it to you. However letters are about as good.

Your charming and characteristic letter was a sort of stirring up as I started for this place. The plain English of which remarkable

[*Page 2*]

expression is that [it *corrected*] was brought me after I was already seated in the cars, and put me into a most [exhilirated *so spelled*] state of mind. I shall be only too glad to buy your epistles with the depreciated paper currency in which I

deal myself, and count it a kind thought on the part of my [Fates *?*] which made it necessary to explain Miss Mason's* silence.

I wish that young woman

[*Page 3*]

had remembered however — for I hadn't forgotten by any means: & if ever I am through with the accumulation of horrors of the dressmaker, the dentist, the holidays, & the like I hope to spend some of my mornings in study. I confess however that I have a sort of childish dread of exposing my studying to perfect strangers, besides an idea founded on past experience that regular hours are an impossibility to me; at least until I go

[*Page 4*]

to live in my Chateau en Espagne.* You have no idea what an enviable person you are. With your opportunities to be ["busy,' *so punctuated*] and your ability to improve them.

Social life is in a quiescent state as yet. A few vigorous people are "making as many calls as they can before New Years", or getting a few [*unrecognized word*] parties "off their hands" but the whirl has not yet commenced. Mrs Roberts* called the other day but I am sorry to say that I was out{.}

[*Page 5*]

It doesn't make any material difference however, as I presume I shall have another opportunity before the season is over. Indeed I do know Mrs. Burleigh.* I like her too. Don't you remember I said I knew somebody in S. Berwick, but alas for any advantage it might ~~to~~ be to me with Mrs B. I couldn't remember who! Is she coming on this winter?

[*Page 6*]

Our bride is an old married woman by this time,* and apparently likes it better than ever. After all [said *corrected*] & done, I don't feel particularly attracted, do you? I always did admire St. Paul, & I agree with him that the unmarried state* is "better." I am not strong minded either! And, Alice is on the other side. Happy mortal! I think it is just the thing for her too don't you? What a fine family

[*Page 7*]

that is and what fine attachés they have too. Did ever girls find better husbands than George Little and Wallace Pierce?

I must stop though as I feel inclined to run on indefinitely. Do write to me some day soon, and if you will ask a lot of questions I will try to write a letter that will interest you.

My love to your sister, please.

Very warmly yours

Anna L. Dawes.

[*Page 8*]

Do you remember our conversation on the education of working people. Please to laugh, for it has been my stock in trade for some time ! ! ! !

My address is simply to Father's care

Notes

1875: Dawes's handwriting of the date is ambiguous. Almost certainly the date is 1875, but it is possible she wrote 1876. Clearly it is from after the wedding of Alice Drummond Walworth in November of 1875. See note below. Furthermore, Dawes clearly responds to Jewett's letter of 21 December 1875.

Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Miss Sarah O. Jewett in South Berwick. At the bottom left of the address side is "Dr ___ Jewett." The envelope is postmarked in Washington, D.C. at 8 p.m. on 23 December. No year is given.

The letter is written on watermarked paper, the whole sheets and half sheets both containing a crown watermark, visible on both sides. Dawes probably stamped her personal letterhead in blue at the top of the first page and again near the top center of page 5. It is a dragon resting on a spear-point projecting from a line — perhaps representing a weather vane? Below the line is a Gothic letter "D."

Miss Mason's: Ellen Mason. See Correspondents. See Jewett to Dawes of 21 December.

Chateau en Espagne: Presumably, Dawes refers to the familiar expression for futile dreams: "castles in Spain."

Mrs Roberts: This person has not yet been identified.

Mrs. Burleigh: Matilda Buffum Burleigh (1823-1911), wife of John H. Burleigh (1822-1878), the Maine congressman from South Berwick.

our bride: Stella Louise Walworth Pierce, who has just married Wallace Pierce. George Little is the husband of Louise's sister, Ella Walworth. See Correspondents.

unmarried state: See 1 Corinthians 7:8, where St. Paul says that remaining unmarried is best for a Christian, as long as one can control one's sexual urges. To be "strong minded" in the 19th-century United States was something like being a feminist in the 21st century, often used pejoratively to describe women who deviated from the current norms of feminine behavior.

Alice: Alice Drummond Walworth, the third of the Walworth sisters, is not yet married at the time of this letter. At this time, she was in Europe. See Ella Walworth Little in Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters,

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Grace Gordon Treadwell Walden to Sarah Orne Jewett

5 Walnut St. Boston.

December 28. 1875 —

Dear Sarah:

I am so glad you like the photograph book — the letter case is a perfect beauty. Such a nice size & just the thing. Ever so many thanks for it. Your letter was very interesting & did indeed remind me of "old times" — how interesting some of our old letters would be to read over now — for they were so like journals, telling everything. I think — I must read some of

[*Page 2*]

them over — some time — when I am over troubled with too much time! Will that ever be — ! not till I'm 92, I know — & then my eyesight will be too dim for me to decipher the old faded writing. I'm glad you had such a pleasant Christmas — mine did not seem much like Christmas to me — for some reason — I can not tell exactly why either — I think the weather had something to do with it — Christmas Eve was [made real to [*two unrecognized words*] — & I had such a

[*Page 3*]

pleasant "little time" — Arthur Walden,* the little four year old, had a Christmas [tree *?*]* — all to himself — & I was the only guest — It was so pretty to see him — It was a little tree — (why do I insist upon spelling tree with three e's —) just big enough to put upon the table. A nice little, full, sturdy tree — all lighted up & hung with little things for Artie & the rest — Artie was with some difficulty induced to remain upstairs till all was ready — then such a ringing of sleighbells announced

[*Page 4*]

the arrival of [SantaClaus *so written*]. & when Artie first saw him he was peeping out behind the tree. All dressed up in furs — a round, fat, little man — with a long beard, all glittery with frost —[he *?*] stopped one moment only & looking at Artie, with his finger on one side of his nose, wished "A Merry Christmas to all & to all a good night"* — & disappeared. Artie stood perfectly wonderstruck — looking after him — & listening to the retreating sleighbells, then said ["KrisKringle *so written*], & I have seen him!" It was so [cunning *?*] & he believed it all so fully —

[*Page 5*]

Lionel* took the part of Santaclaus & did it so well — but Artie's belief in it all & the enjoyment of the Children made it a real Christmas Eve to me — The next day I went to Ch. I heard a very fine sermon from Mr. Walden — * which of course I enjoyed — but first I must tell you my first act Christmas mg. It was to take some flowers to Mrs. Harvey!* — but she is ill Sarah, so you'll forgive & forget —I should not have done it if she'd been well — After Ch. I went in & wish [*intended* wished *?*] Bessie* a "Merrie Christmas" {—} also the Waldens — We did not

[*Page 6*]

dine at Kitty's* as she was not well enough to have us — but we were all there in the [evening *?*]* — I dined there, or rather I went there to dine — but was so tired that I rested on the sofa upstairs till dessert & then went down & took a cup of coffee which set me up for the rest of the [evening *?*]. We had quite a pleasant time — & I had some very pretty presents — We did not go into expensive presents [much *?*] this year — every one is feeling so poor — And yet, [inspite *so written*] of the "hard times"* — never did I see the shops so full of

[*Page 7*]

costly things — & never did I see them so full of people — or the streets so crowded —

I want to see you{r} stories.. When shall I?

Now that Christmas is over, Epiphany is coming, & with it the festival for our Sunday School — in the mean time packing boxes — missionary boxes.* After that is over I wonder if there will be a lull — I hope so, for there is so much that I want to do —

Papa came home on Friday, from Cheshire.*

[*Page 8*]

where he had been for more than two weeks — I suppose you know that Mr. Brown,* up there, died — Papa goes again next week I believe. Imagine him of all people being for a moment in those cold regions —.

Must say good night.

"love to Mary"* & happy New Year to you all

Grace

Notes

Arthur Walden: Arthur Treadwell Walden (1871-1947).

tree: Gordon uses the word four times in this passage. The first two are blotted, but all of them look very much like "tree." However, as she explains with the third appearance, she intends to write either "teee" or "treee," before clarifying that she is speaking of a tree and not a tea party. Perhaps she is transcribing the four-year-old's pronunciation?

good night: Gordon draws upon the popular poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" (1823). The poem narrates the magical visit of a mythical bringer of gifts to children on Christmas Eve. Alternate names for St. Nicholas are Santa Claus and Kris Kringle.

Lionel: This person has not yet been identified.

Mr. Walden: In 1876, Gordon's future husband, Jacob Treadwell Walden (1830-1918), was rector at St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Boston. He was then married to Elizabeth Leighton Law, who died in 1883.

Mrs. Harvey: This *may* be Elizabeth French (Mrs. Peter) Harvey (1813-1901). See also Peter Harvey at Find a Grave.

Bessie: This person has not yet been identified.

Kitty's: This *may* be Katherine Sleeper Walden (1862-1949), or perhaps Gordon's own older sister, Kate Gordon Hoffendahl.

evening: Here and in similar instances in this letter, Gordon appears to have written "eving," presumably an abbreviation for evening.

hard times: Probably Gordon refers to what is now called "The Panic of 1873," which began a 6 year depression in North America and Europe.

missionary boxes: Probably this refers to "home missionary boxes," in which donated goods were packaged for "home" missionaries to deliver to the needy in a local community. Similar boxes for foreign missions were more complicated and, therefore, less likely to be packed in local churches.

Cheshire: Gordon's father, George William Gordon, was, in 1876, the proprietor of the Berkshire Quartz Sand Mining Company in Cheshire, MA.

Mr. Brown: The identity of Mr. Brown is not yet known. It seems likely that he had something to do with the Berkshire Quartz Sand Mining Company.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. See Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy and annotation.